

THE
AMERICAN IN EGYPT,

WITH

RAMBLES THROUGH ARABIA PETRÆA

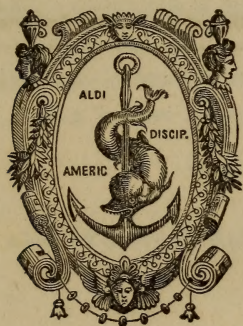
AND

THE HOLY LAND,

DURING

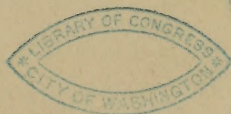
THE YEARS 1839 AND 1840.

BY JAMES EWING COOLEY.



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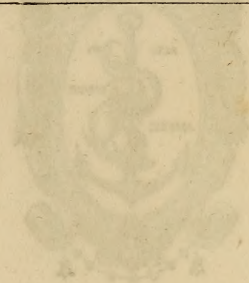
THE
AMERICAN IN EGYPT.

WITH
RAMBLES THROUGH ARABIA PETRAEA

AND
THE HOLY LAND.

BY
THE YEARS 1820 AND 1821.

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1842

TO THE
HON. LEWIS CASS,

ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
NEAR THE COURT OF FRANCE,

WHOSE SOCIAL VIRTUES AND LITERARY ATTAINMENTS, WHOSE PATRIOTISM
IN THE FIELD AND ABILITIES IN THE CABINET, HAVE RENDERED HIM,
BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD, CONSPICUOUS AMONG THE ILLUS-
TRIOUS MEN OF THE AGE, AND WORTHY THE CONFIDENCE
AND HIGHEST HONOURS OF HIS COUNTRY,

THESE PAGES

ARE RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED, BY

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

IN presenting to his countrymen these random and familiar sketches of the manners, customs, and character of the East, the author is aware that the field of his observation has already been occupied by numerous modern and ancient travellers, more capable perhaps than himself of doing justice to the subject. But as the plan of the present work differs, in almost every respect, from those already in print, it may not be unacceptable to the public.

In every thing relating to the affairs and condition of the interesting countries which the author has traversed, he has endeavoured to arrive at just and true conclusions. Where he has commended, he has done so in all sincerity; and where it was his duty to adopt an opposite course, he has not allowed himself to "set down aught in malice."

The work, as it now appears, is a mere compilation from the notes taken on the spots to which they refer, during the author's wanderings in the Old

World ; and they are now submitted to the reader in the hope that, if they fail to instruct, they may at least serve to while away a few leisure hours pleasantly.

An effort has been made to blend with the incidents of the author's wanderings an outline account of the existing peculiarities of the East, and to compare, in some slight degree, the manners, customs, oppressions, degradation, and barbarism of the modern orientals with the condition of their more enlightened and more fortunate ancestors, when Egypt was the seat of learning, luxury, and power ; when Judea was a "goodly land, flowing with milk and honey ;" and when "the desert blossomed like the rose."

The wild Indian of the West clings to his native woods ; the wandering Arab roams lord of his cheerless sands ; and civilized man, ruined in fortune and character, often shelters himself from the merited blasts of contempt at home, among the barbarous people of the East. Consequently, what is called in Turkey "*Frank society*," is unavoidably composed, to a great extent, of renegades from civilized countries. It is not surprising, therefore, that the *voyageur* upon the Nile and the Levant is occasionally thrown in juxtaposition with individuals, exhibiting a fair and courteous exterior, who, in all their proffered atten-

tion to, and intercourse with, strangers, are actuated by the most unworthy motives, and prompted by the most insidious and base designs.

In portraying some specimens of individual character as exhibited in Eastern society, and in drawing occasionally upon the peculiarities and eccentricities of European and other travellers that the author has met by the way, he has, for reasons most obvious to the reader, substituted fictitious for real names, while he has endeavoured to exhibit the characters themselves as "true to the life" as circumstances would permit.

In the brief descriptions of some of the wonderful remains of antiquity still visible in the valley of Egypt, in the mountains of Petra, and in the Holy Land, an effort has been made rather to impress the reader with a general idea of their grandeur and extent, than to embarrass him with technical peculiarity or architectural detail.

New York, June, 1842.

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THE
AMERICAN IN EGYPT.

CHAPTER I.

Voyage from Athens to Alexandria. — The Island of Syra. — His reverence the Bishop. — Views of Naxos, Paros, Candia, and the Mountains of Judea.

IN the last days of the year 1839, while England was enveloped in rain and fog, and a large portion of the United States shivered in snow, we were approaching the coast of Egypt, under a clear sky, warmed by a summer sun, and fanned by a soft and gentle breeze.

In our passage down the Adriatic, we came near being cast away upon the rocks of Cephalonia. We had bad weather, and some of the severest gales that I have ever encountered at sea. Our boat was a miserable affair; the engine old and feeble; and the captain—though sufficiently qualified to take charge of a piratical schooner, when the

danger of the enterprise may sometimes render it necessary, to avoid being captured, to dash the vessel upon the rocks and drown all hands—possessed few of the requisite qualifications for the safe and satisfactory management of a Mediterranean steamer. He was a long, lank-sided creature, loosely built, with an Arabian face, and a careless, dare-danger sort of expression about the eyes. He was a native of Italy, and received a part of his education among the Greek pirates during the late rebellion in Greece against the Turks.

Happily, at last, we fell into other hands, and stood upon one of the finest boats that ever floated in the Levant. It was a French war-steamer, with ample and sumptuous accommodations, and commanded by as brave a man as ever trod a plank, who possessed all that grace and suavity of manners peculiar to his countrymen previous to the revolution. There were a number of passengers on board from Athens down to the island of Syra, including the American Consul, several Greek and Armenian merchants from Constantinople and Smyrna, Jews from Damascus, and the bishop of Syra.

The last-mentioned very reverend gentleman came on board in great pomp, escorted by half a score of priests. He talked much; evidently thought little; ate and drank like a lord, and afterward smoked himself to sleep. When we anchored in the bay of Syra the next morning, he came on deck with his capacious black cloak gracefully flowing about him, his cocked hat and breeches in perfect order, a

large gold cross on his breast, attached to a red silk cord that passed round his neck, terminating in a large clerical tassel, of the same colour, which hung down his back. Thus richly decorated, his reverence, with a firm step, and an air of much self-complacency, was about to quit the ship without taking that kind of leave of the honest steward which is usual in cases of value received.

The bishop was well enough provided with benedictions; and, among the faithful, he was probably no niggard in his dealings in that kind of ware. But the French cook, who had brought the perfection of his skill in the culinary art to its highest tension, in his endeavours to please the taste and satisfy the voluptuous appetite of the bishop, no doubt thought, that however efficacious and precious his blessings might be in certain cases, yet, like the fine figure of Sterne's French servant Lafleur, "they did not cost his reverence one sou," nor could he turn them to any account in the market, in exchange for the meats and other edibles which he had rather lavishly devoured during the voyage. In short, whatever may have been the reflections of the bishop upon the occasion, the cook came to the determination to make a formal demand of what he considered not only a *just* debt, but a debt of honour. Thus resolved, cap in hand, he approached this high dignitary of the church, and presented his bill for liquidation. This produced a scene of consternation and no little ruffling among the black robes, which resulted in the bishop's sitting down to a second breakfast; after

which he paid the cook like a man, and went on shore like a hero.

The bishop disposed of, and landed without accident, we were also tempted to go on shore. Ascertaining that we were not to proceed on the voyage to Alexandria that day, we promised ourselves no little pleasure in rambling over the town of Syra; which, from the deck of the steamer, appeared exceedingly picturesque and beautiful.

The town is built in an amphitheatrical form, upon a cluster of hills, rising by a gentle acclivity from the water's edge to a considerable height. The houses are painted white, and appear neat and cheerful when viewed from the sea, though nothing can exceed the general filthiness that pervades most of them, which becomes disgustingly apparent when more closely inspected. The bishop's house, an elegant and extensive building, stands upon the summit of a conical hill, rising beautifully in the rear, near the centre of the curve of hills on which the city is built, overlooking the town, and commanding a fine view of the sea and surrounding islands.

Syra contains more than twenty thousand inhabitants, and is the largest commercial town of Greece. It has sprung up since the Greek revolution; and, like all other towns of Greece, has an air of freshness and activity, somewhat resembling the new towns in the western part of the United States. Its situation is central, and most of the steamers up and down the Mediterranean stop there for an exchange of passengers, and to replenish the stores for the re-

mainder of the voyage. It seems to be a point of collection and distribution, where passengers may embark for any part of the Mediterranean, and stands in about the same relation to the steam navigation of that sea, that Mechlin does to railway travelling in Belgium. Although the most important of all the Greek towns, it is so slightly fortified that it might be taken by a single ship of war. But should the bishop's residence be turned into a fortress, and properly mounted with guns, it might easily be made a much more strongly fortified place than St. Jean d'Acre ever was ; and it would be no more than the present unsettled state of the East demands for the protection of a commercial town of so much importance. Indeed, it is not improbable that the amount which has already been expended upon the bishop's residence, would have been nearly or quite sufficient to defray the expense of throwing up a very respectable fortress, and putting the town in a proper state of defence ; while his yearly revenue would be quite ample for the support of an efficient garrison.

With all its commercial advantages, however, the attractions of its active and picturesquely-dressed population, and its beauty, when viewed at a distance — an hour's threading of its narrow, dirty lanes (streets it has none) made us glad to return to our good steamer, quite satisfied that we could make ourselves much more comfortable and happy on ship-board than in the largest and most important town in all the kingdom of Greece.

After riding three days in the bay of Syra, anxiously waiting the arrival of the mail from Marseilles, the sailors pulled up the anchor, and we bore off on our voyage to Alexandria without it. The inhabitants, in their many-coloured and gay costumes, gathered on the shore in great numbers to witness our departure. We waved a long adieu to its snow-coloured houses, which are, in truth, more like the whited sepulchres of the dead, than the cheerful dwellings of the living; yet, as we dashed off before a prosperous breeze, leaving the town in the distance, it assumed a more strikingly beautiful appearance than ever; and, notwithstanding previous impressions, we could not avoid realizing that "distance lends enchantment to the view."

At sundown, we were running along between the rugged and rocky islands of Naxos and Paros, and the next day we had a view of the shores of Candia.

The weather was deliciously warm, and the blue waters of the sea were as smooth as an unbroken mirror. Not a wave rose to agitate or interrupt the calm and delightful movement of our incomparable boat.

There were no passengers on board except myself, wife, and an American friend. We were all in perfect health, so we lived well, and passed the time in the most delightful manner. Nothing could be more to our taste than every circumstance attending that agreeable voyage. Indeed, none could ever be more happily achieved. How soft and delicious was the balmy, summer-like climate! and the deep blue sky that hung over us was as pure as ether; while

the breeze that played around us was as mild as were the gentle breathings of the airs of Paradise. How harmonious and lovely the elements seemed to combine and hush all their ferocity, under the gentle influence of peace and quietness ! And how cheerful and apparently happy was every living creature on board ! The little bird, caged against the mast, sang as musically and sweetly perhaps as when it flitted at will from bud to bough in its native grove ; and the noisy parrot, that coarsely mocked its notes, was as merry and playful as boys released from school. The sailors were no less joyous, and joined their jocund notes with the music of the birds, in some of their favourite sea-songs, while they scoured the guns, and put every thing in order on board the ship. The officers, too, were in high spirits. In short, we were all happy ; and, in the last evening of the voyage, as we were enjoying the first glimpse of the lofty mountains of Judea, the high hills of Crete faded from our view, and the sun sank gloriously into the depths of the ocean.

CHAPTER II.

First glimpse of Alexandria. — View by Moonlight. — Our Arrival. — Turkish and Egyptian Fleets. — Imaginary Plagues of Egypt. — Process of landing, and the Manner of taking care of the Baggage. — The Inhabitants ; their Mode of Conveyance. — Plan of keeping off Intruders, as practised in the East. — Ladies in Masks, and Peasants in Rags. — Novel Mode of sweeping the Streets. — The use of Camels and Donkeys. — Water-carriers and City-criers. — First Impressions.

THE next morning, we were threading our winding way through the dangerous entrance to the harbour of Alexandria. I came on deck, and found all hands "in the suds," scraping and cleaning every part of it, scouring the guns, and rubbing the rigging, that all things might appear to the best advantage when in port. They commenced this operation of the ship's ablution and deck-scraping, over our heads, about four o'clock in the morning ; and so thorough and determined was the process of washing and scouring that part of the boat, that all efforts at repose were ineffectual, and sleep was quite out of the question, of course.

The moon was still bright, deep in the vault of

heaven; and the morning-star, twinkling brilliantly in the east, led on by one of lesser light, though not less beautiful, gave a peculiar charm and sweetness to the mellow-tinted sky, as the first gush of Aurora poured along the eastern horizon. A long, low, circling coast of sand, rising occasionally into gentle hillocks, dotted with motionless wind-mills, stretched away in the distance on the right; while an outline glimpse of some of the principal edifices of Alexandria was obtained through the towering masts of the Turkish and Egyptian fleets, blending with the distant view of Pompey's Pillar and Cleopatra's Needle, leaning against the richly-burnished sky, and producing, altogether, one of those incomparably beautiful and lovely landscape views which are rarely witnessed in nature, and reminding one most forcibly of those poetic and inestimable touches of *Salvator Rosa*, seen nowhere else in such glorious perfection as in Italy.

This gorgeous scene, lovely in itself beyond all manner of description, was greatly heightened in beauty and grandeur when the broad sun rolled up from the deep sands of the desert, overwhelming, in his effulgence, the light of the moon and stars, and entered upon his bright career.

We moved slowly into the harbour, feeling cautiously our way among the tall ships of Mehemet Ali, bustling with men, and bristling with implements of destruction, ready to scatter to the winds all presumptuous opposition to their master's will. These numerous and immense ships of the line, with their

crescent-stamped banners streaming at their masts, and the swarms of *jantily*-dressed sailors that crowded their decks or rowed about from ship to ship, gave to the harbour of Alexandria an air of vivacity and warlike consequence which quite took us by surprise.

It was the finest display of ships that I have ever seen in any part of the world. The English, however, pronounced it at the time little more than a dumb show; and subsequent events have shown, that however beautiful and efficient the Turkish fleet may have appeared when riding at anchor in the safe harbour of Alexandria, Mehemet Ali did not care to risk it in deeper water, amid the thunder of the British guns; and was glad when it was back again at Constantinople and out of his sight.

The morning, though bright and lovely at first, became overcast, and soon the rain descended in torrents! This quite astonished us; for, somehow or other, from what we had read, dreamed, or heard from the lecturing lips of Eastern travellers, a notion had crept into our heads that "it never rains in Egypt." The floods, however, came down as if the very windows of heaven had been opened, drenching through and through every thing that was exposed to its pitiless peltings, putting a damper upon our false, sunny ideas, and correcting an impression which, we found in our subsequent rambles, was no less erroneous than many others that we had

gathered from the *poetic* lectures of a gentleman,* who has thrown down such a shower of eloquence upon the inhabitants of the New World, by way of enlightening their weak understandings in regard to the wonders of the Old.

We had found ourselves so very comfortable on board the steamer, that we could not leave it without regret. Besides, we had so conjured up the "plagues of Egypt,"—turned them over and over in our minds—looked at them on all sides—talked of them, read of them, and heard of them, until we had begun to put them all down as real, and expected to meet them ashore, in every possible variety of form. These bugbears had got such a fearful hold of our credulous minds and sensitive nerves, that we shuddered at the idea of making our *debut* on the Egyptian shore. And certain rather odd-looking, half-naked figures of men, women, children, camels, donkeys, dogs, &c., that we could see, mixed up in a confused kind of jumble, and struggling with each other along the edge of the water, like the troops of Korah in the Red Sea, did not tend to enlighten us in regard to the future. We began to think that we should probably meet little else than Arabs, and even felt some uneasiness about finding a comfortable shed on shore for our heads. Thus imaginary difficulties had piled themselves up in our minds to a height scarcely less than that of an Egyptian pyramid, when several boats from the town came alongside of the steamer, with servants, dis-

* J. S. Buckingham, ex-member of Parliament.

tributing the cards of the hotels of Alexandria, printed in Italian, French, and English.

We had no sooner thrown out the anchor, than several of these agents from the "Home of the Stranger" came on board, each soliciting our patronage for his particular hotel — all of whom could speak Italian and French, and one of them spoke pretty good English. Difficulties vanished as if by magic, a load of borrowed trouble rolled from our minds, we cast the bugbears overboard, shut our eyes against all thoughts of the plague, and began to feel ourselves as much at ease in that mysterious and distant part of the world, as if we had been standing on the rock of the Puritans, in "our own green forest-land."

Giving our baggage in charge of a Maltese servant, who had it lowered into his boat, we took leave of our gentleman-like *commandant* and his very civil officers, and were descending the steps of the steamer, to go on shore, when we were accosted in English by a well-bred young man, who tendered us his services in any way in which we might have occasion for them.

This was a piece of good fortune, as the sequel proved; and we took him under our protection on his own terms. He had donkeys, with English saddles, for us, and camels to convey our baggage; so our arrangements were all completed before we were on shore; but for which circumstance we must have been nearly torn to pieces and scattered to the winds, bag and baggage; for the boat had scarcely touched the shore, when the half-naked Arabs waded into the

water, and, in their endeavours to help us out of the boat, came near pitching us into the sea. In their politeness, they laid hold of us as rashly as if we were to have a rough-and-tumble scuffle to see which party could keep their legs the longest. They were soon reinforced by a crowd of their dusky friends, who hovered around the boat, no less naked and noisy, and full as anxious to help us as those in whose hands we were then struggling.

The crowd grew denser every moment. Those in the rear, in their anxiety to pick up a few paras, pushed down the front rank into the water. There was such a confusion of voices, in the deep, harsh, guttural, Arabic tongue, mingled with the braying of the donkeys and the bellowing of the camels, that it seemed to be a scene more like Pandemonium than any thing on this side of the Styx.

While we were struggling to clear our skirts from the friendly aid of one crowd, another snarl, equally anxious to help us, caught up our cloaks, umbrellas, and whatever else they could lay their hands on. The luggage had come up at the same time, and attracted a large crowd around it, who immediately seized it, and proceeded to distribute it in the most destructive manner.

The Maltese, in whose charge the luggage had been left, laid about him in great rage, protesting, at the top of his voice, that he did not want, nor would he have, any of their assistance. But it was all to no purpose—help him they would, at all events; and it was only when joined by the young man who

came ashore in the boat with us, that he was enabled to rescue it from their officious hands, and to lash it on the camels. In the mean time, we were in great personal peril, assailed as we were by a crowd of Arabs with donkeys, who did their best to kidnap us and run us off into the town, whether we would or not; and it was with no little difficulty that we kept our position unharmed.

Some of the Arabs pressed us toward their quadrupeds, and tried to lift us on to them. These, by others more zealous to get a job, were overturned and trampled under foot. Twenty at a time, each holding a donkey by the bit with one hand, goading him on fiercely with a sharp piece of iron in the other, surrounded and hemmed in a poor fellow—screaming, all the while, at the top of their voices—and nearly got him under foot, in their endeavour to take possession of him and give him a ride.

Thus we were struggling for some time, between doubt and fear, when our new acquaintance, having saved our baggage, and despatched it on three camels, with the Maltese, to the custom-house, came to the rescue, and placed us upon his donkeys. But this process was rather rough work, and required proceedings wholly different from those one witnesses in civilized countries. First, he came in among them with a heavy cane, cutting and thrusting right and left, like a warrior with his battle-blade. Some were knocked down, some pushed down, some kicked down, and some kicked after they were down. In that summary way, he soon cleared a passage, and

enabled us to get to his donkeys; which, until then, had been so far from the thickest part of the action, that we had not had a glimpse of them.

While we were mounting, he kept off the crowd with slight touches of his corbāsh, which he did not scruple in using pretty freely over the backs and shoulders of all who came within his reach, without much respect to persons.

Mrs. C. had no sooner mounted a donkey, than the Arab who had charge of it began to belabour the poor animal so lustily, that he got him into a run, and was pushing off at a furious rate, unbidden, into an obscure part of the city; while our friend the doctor had scarcely got easy in his saddle, before he was whipped away in another direction. I mounted last, but was sent forward in the twinkling of an eye, by a man at the heels of my donkey, who urged him onward at the top of his speed; and he consequently jogged on with such a rocking and unsteady gait, that I had great trouble in holding on; and, what was worse, the poor creature, so hardily pressed, stumbled several times, and nearly pitched me, heels over head, into the sand.

In short, we had no little difficulty in keeping right side up on the donkeys, but still more in keeping ourselves in the same company. However, after a while, we got into something like regular order, and began to wind along through the little, narrow, wet and muddy streets of the town. A scene, at once novel and indescribably singular, now presented itself. The people in crowds were creeping along, over

their ankles in mud, generally more than half naked, and many of them had little more covering than our first parents before the fall. All of them appeared to be about as miserable as filth, cold, hunger, want, rags, and no rags at all, could make them.

Our passage was completely blocked up and overshadowed by a procession of camels loaded with lemons and oranges. Our limbs were scarcely safe from the ponderous jostlings of these unwieldy, though patient and useful animals, when we encountered a platoon of camels and donkeys loaded with goat-skins of water, which the Arabs were distributing through the streets of Alexandria, in the same retail way that "pure spring water" is dealt round from house to house in the good city of Gotham. Next came butt against us a large camel with a huge date-tree on his back, sweeping the streets, in his unsteady motion, for a considerable distance fore and aft. "Look out for heads!" Here is a knot of shivering Arabs, grinding corn in a little rude kind of mill, stuck flat in the mud, and turned by a donkey. There is a hideous-looking object, bearing on her head a loathsome substance, spread out upon a greasy board, crying, in the nerve-racking and jaw-breaking language of her country, "Hot cakes! hot cakes! here's your fine hot cakes!" Now we pass a cluster of Arab women in masks, according to the custom of the country, exhibiting little more of their faces than a small space around their eyes, and painted brows, while their legs are bare to a more elevated point than is even exhibited by the fair

WATER-CARRIERS IN ALEXANDRIA.





EGYPTIAN WOMEN WITH MASKS.

artistes of the ballet, at present so popular in our own enlightened country. Here, again, are a dozen young girls, with tattooed chins, gabbling like geese in the snow, with scarcely a rag to cover their nakedness; and there is a drove of slaves for sale, dragging their rattling chains through the mud.

CHAPTER III.

The principal Hotel in Alexandria. — Rain and Sunshine. — A Ride before Dinner. — Invitation to dine with Mr. and Mrs. Firkins. — Introduction to the Wrinklebottoms, Messrs. O'Statten, Sneezebiter, O'Screensbury, and other distinguished Personages. — Genealogy of the Humbug Family. — An Evening Circle. — A Snake Story. — An agreeable Surprise.

THE principal hotel of Alexandria, kept by a Frank, and quite in the European style, we found very comfortable; and the charges not more than about twice as extravagant as those in most towns on the continent of Europe, notwithstanding bread, meat, and other articles of food are two or three hundred per cent. cheaper in Egypt than in any other part of the world that I have visited. However cheap, dear, comfortable or uncomfortable it might have appeared to others, we were glad enough to escape the dismal scenes that we had just encountered on our way from the shore, and take up our quarters in it for the time being. We had scarcely put ourselves down quietly, however, before our friend the doctor became impatient for an attack upon the "lions of the town."

The rain was descending in torrents one moment, and the sun was shining hot enough to boil it in the streets the next; nevertheless, donkeys were ordered,

and off we galloped, at a John Gilpin pace, to Pompey's Pillar.

Our imaginations could hardly have solved the mystery of such an erection ; or how a race of men, such as the present inhabitants of Egypt (if such were the ancients,) could have made so fine a block of granite, more than ninety feet long, and twenty-seven feet in circumference, stand on one end ; or what could have induced certain English travellers to have so defaced its beautifully polished surface with their names, painted in large black letters — names that have scarcely ever been heard of, before or since, in any other place, or under any other circumstances, and probably will be little heard of otherwise hereafter, when away we darted about two miles in another direction, to look at Cleopatra's Needle.

Next we wandered over some part of the ruins of the ancient city of the Ptolemies ; thence threading the bazars, pondering upon the lank, lean, sombre visages of the Arab and Turkish merchants, some of whom had eaten their onions and rice, swallowed their opium, and lay stretched out like stale codfish in their stalls, and drowned in bliss ; while others, little more alive than dead, fuming like steam-engines, at their long dirty pipes, kept vigils over the departed ; and then — in this manner we had pitched upon one thing after another, got drenched in the rain, and besmeared with mud, but we had seen most of the curiosities of Alexandria before dinner.

We had regained the comfortable rooms of the

hotel in safety, and were musing over our bespattered plight, the wretched state of affairs in Alexandria, and how sadly things must have gone to waste in that notable city since the days of Cleopatra, when, most unexpectedly to us, in came a messenger with a polite invitation from Mr. and Mrs. Firkins, requesting the pleasure of our company that day at dinner, at five o'clock.

Although greatly flattered, we were somewhat astonished at this invitation, which we looked upon at the time as an especial honour. As we were total strangers in Alexandria, we did not feel ourselves at liberty to decline it. We wished to look into the state of society, and into matters and things in general, as much as we could have an opportunity, during the short period of our contemplated sojourn. We made inquiries respecting the standing of the family of the Firkins, and, having satisfied ourselves upon this point as well as we were enabled to do from such authority as was within our reach, we were but too happy to avail ourselves of their civilities; a circumstance which, in the simplicity of our hearts, we regarded as a piece of great good fortune.

Every traveller may not be aware of the fact, that there reside in Alexandria, Cairo, and other parts of the Levant, a number of well-dressed, genteel-looking persons, whose sole business is to insnare the unwary. Their way of managing matters is as follows. On the arrival of respectable strangers in their vicinity, they promptly send their names, and a card, inviting them to dinner. This being accepted, as is

generally the case, it affords them an opportunity of ingratiating themselves into the favour of their new-made acquaintances, and of fleecing them in every imaginable and possible manner — an opportunity that seldom passes unimproved. I have selected some of these from among the number for especial remark, and my motive for recording what follows, is to put others upon their guard, how they accept the attentions of those unknown to them, when similarly situated with ourselves. With this explanation to the reader, I shall proceed to relate what occurred, and leave him to make his own deductions; and, if he be a traveller in the East, to profit by our experience, or to let it alone, just as he pleases.

At the appointed hour, we had the honour of being cosily seated at the table of our new friends, where we had the pleasure of being introduced to Mr. O'Statten, Mr. and Mrs. Wrinklebottom, the Misses Wrinklebottom, their French governess, and Mr. O'Screensbury.

The table was bountifully supplied with cold ham, chickens, turkeys, &c., and the brandy, beer, wine, and cider flowed almost as copiously indoors as the showers in the streets. Justice, however, compels me to add, that we made a *capital* dinner.

Mr. Firkins informed us that he was greatly in favour with the Pacha of Egypt; that he was much in his councils, saw him hourly at the palace, and, in fact, that he could do almost anything he had a mind to with Mehemet Ali, any day of his life. This, of course, naturally enough raised our curiosity, to find

that we had stepped right off, without an effort, as it were, into such high-toned society; and that we were hand and glove with a gentleman who seemed, by his own showing, to have more power over the refractory Pacha than all the "Great Powers" of Europe put together. As Mr. Firkins saw the gradual opening of our curiosity, he kindly filled our glasses anew, and had the goodness to warm himself into a more elevated and poetical strain of egotism and self-commendation, until he finally let the whole "cat out of the bag." We were really very much amused by his conversation; and so well contented with us did Mr. Firkins himself seem to be, that he would have been willing, in the benevolence and goodness of his heart, to "laugh and drink cider with us all day."

These very pleasant people, Mr. and Mrs. Firkins, are connexions of the present Lord Humbug, of England, and descendants of his Grace, the great Duke of Humbug, who distinguished himself so eminently under the reign of Queen Anne. The Humbug family is very numerous in England at the present moment, and the most powerful, probably, of any in the whole realm. The connexion is now traced to the royal family, though it is an honour that the Queen and her illustrious uncles, and other great personages standing near the throne, are not very proud to acknowledge. But the vast wealth of the Humbug family is proverbial all over the world. It embraces, among other property, besides the most splendid palaces in the metropolis, nearly all the

landed interest of the kingdom. And so vast are the investments of the Humbugs in the English funds, that it is said they completely control the prices of stocks on 'Change, in the city, from generation to generation. It is a very rich, powerful, and talented family; and I think it would be a difficult matter ever to put them down, though their wealth, influence, and exalted character have excited a great deal of envy among the lower classes, and made them a host of enemies, who, it is lamentable to say, are doing all in their power to injure the fair fame and well-earned reputation of this very ancient and noble English family.

As is generally the case with bitter and determined enemies, there are many slanderous things said, and much unprincipled backbiting, which have not the least foundation in truth: and since it would be considered a condescension quite incompatible with the dignity of the Humbugs, to reply to these petty scandals which their malicious enemies have been so active in diffusing into the public mind, it is an incontrovertible fact, that there are very strong prejudices existing against the Humbug family, throughout Christendom. They do something indirectly, it is true, to counteract the bad effects of this impression, (which seems to be getting stronger and stronger every day,) through the influence of the English press, which is said to be so wound up and so deeply entangled in the affairs of the Humbugs, that to advocate any other cause would be its destruction. In addition to which, many of the more

humble branches of the family have turned authors themselves, and flourished their pens in the common cause of their noble connexions. And, to have a more attractive and plausible reason for adopting a course of that kind, they have generally travelled into foreign countries, examined the state of society, &c.; after which they have an apology for writing a book, which gives them an opportunity, while discharging their abuse upon others, to praise themselves and laud their ancestors. In this manner, they are pretty sure to get read; and there can scarcely be a doubt of the benefit that almost unavoidably results to the Humbugs and their cause. The communication has latterly become so easy between the United States and Great Britain, that many of these authors of the Humbug family, have honoured that dark and benighted part of the world with their presence; and have done a great deal to raise the expectation of the people, and to excite the curiosity of other nations. But as their books and lectures have mostly been published, time will determine their effects upon mankind, and test the stability or downfall of American institutions, as well as the permanency or ruin of the present dynasties of the European Humbugs.

To return to this charming family, Mr. and Mrs. Firkins, of Alexandria, lineal descendants of the Humbugs. However much Mr. F. might be inclined to boast of his influence over the weak-minded Pacha of Egypt, he never plumed himself, I believe, on his honours and titles to nobility. Indeed, he so altered his views upon this subject, that he changed

his rightful name, denied his lineage, and waged war to extirpation upon the whole Humbug family, Lord Humbug, Lady Humbug, and all the Humbugs, great and small, throughout the United Kingdom of England, Scotland and Ireland. This was going great lengths with his own relatives, though there is an apology which may be offered for such a sweeping denunciation, which will soften somewhat its severity, and will go far, doubtless, to excuse Mr. Firkins from the penalties of its rashness and imprudence.

The fact is, Mr. Firkins's nerves were never hung upon very steady keys; and the strong wines and dense fogs of England had nearly perfected their ruin. This was his case, when his friends, to save him from the tender mercies of the managers of an insane hospital, to the honours of which he seemed to have many palpable claims, advised him to try the mild climate of Egypt for a few years, in hopes that he might, under its clear sky and genial sun, recover, in some degree at least, the healthful and natural tone of feeling of which he had been robbed by the late dinners and wretched climate of England.

In this respect, I am gratified to know that the anxious wishes of the friends of Mr. Firkins have been realized to a considerable extent, though there can be little doubt of his not being quite right in his head at times, even now; and I fancied I could perceive in the looks and movements of his amiable lady, during dinner, whenever her lord and master rose into a strain of self-praise particularly poetical,

and emptied his glass more frequently than common, that she was not without her fears of a relapse into his old complaint.

Everything in regard to the dinner passed off smoothly and without accident. Mr. Firkins rose from the table perfectly sober, for anything that he had drunk that day, though there was a little unsteadiness observable in his step, to which he called our attention, at the same time ascribing it to a late dinner that he had given to some rather jovial friends, similarly situated with ourselves, the day before. That was an explanation that Mr. Firkins was under no necessity of making; and I thought, by a significant kind of twist about the pretty mouth of Mrs. Firkins, that she would much rather that he had said nothing on the subject. Indeed, it was scarcely worth minding; and had it not been for the extremely open-hearted manner of Mr. Firkins, and an apparently strong desire on his part to entertain his friends, we should probably never have heard it mentioned, nor noticed that Mr. Firkins, on that occasion, assumed any other than his usual gait. As it was, the explanation was perfectly satisfactory, and served to illustrate the fair, unconcealed, frank manner of Mr. Firkins, who, in England, could hardly fail to be recognised among his friends as "a d—d fine, hospitable fellow."

Firkins was, in truth, what some would term a delightful companion, though by others he might not be much esteemed. For my own part, though the evidence had been heard and noted, I had not

“summed up.” I was not then quite prepared to give a decision in his case, nor even now do I think it worth while to trouble the reader with my opinion. It is true that some little pecuniary transactions grew out of our acquaintance, which might have been a sufficient pretext for some to have pronounced him, right off hand, one of the greatest “humbugs” in all Egypt; but as the shave, at most, could not have exceeded a few hundred piastres, I made up my mind, from the first, to keep it a profound secret; and I now only allude to it here in the most confidential manner with the reader, at the same time enjoining upon him the strictest secrecy touching all business transactions between Mr. Firkins and myself. I would not, however, by any means have him forget the kind and hospitable treatment that we received at the hands of Mr. Firkins and his accomplished lady.

Dinner was no sooner over than Mr. Firkins ordered the horses and carriages to be in readiness, and invited us to take a drive. The sun was fast sinking below the western horizon, and the rain and clouds had cleared away. We turned out of the great “European Square,” drove over a part of the ruins of ancient Alexandria, and passed out at the Rosetta gate on to the desert, for some distance beyond, until the sombre shades of evening began to thicken around and admonish us to return to town.

It was an agreeable drive; and when we returned to the hospitable mansion of Mr. Firkins, we found tea upon the table. This delicious beverage, always

refreshing and grateful to the taste, was rendered doubly sweet on this occasion by the sweet sugar and sweeter manners of Mrs. Firkins, who did the honours of her tea-table "in a most capital manner."

Mrs. Firkins is a lady of considerable conversational talent, and she talked with great fluency and animation upon most subjects of general interest, though, perhaps, not always with that intelligence and elegance of diction which are considered unexceptionable in polite circles, or as either above or below criticism. If there was a tendency either way, I should be inclined to think it was a downward one. Still, however much she might be found wanting in elevation, either in style or sentiment, her voice was sufficiently high to suit the taste of those who are not only blind to all the charms of nature, but who have even lost their hearing. Indeed, this seemed to be one of her great points; and whenever she appeared to lag in other respects, for want of a word or an idea, she was sure to bring herself handsomely out of the trifling embarrassment, by raising her voice to a pitch sufficiently elevated to drown all recollection of anything else. In this way she could hardly fail to amuse and attract attention.

Tea passed off in a sprightly and agreeable manner; the Arab servants had cleared the table; Mrs. Firkins reclined in her easy chair, drumming with the fore-finger of her right hand upon the mahogany; while Mr. Firkins sat down to his hookah, drawing away at it rather lustily, and debating at intervals with Mrs. Firkins and the rest of the com-

pany, whether the remainder of the evening should be taken up with cards, or spun out with music and agreeable conversation.

As for myself, wife, and friend, we were all fond of music, but knew very little about cards; besides, I was aware that the doctor would not play for money (if at all) under any consideration: and to have proposed to play a hand at cards in an English gentleman's house for no stakes at all, would have been a breach of good-breeding, I am sure, that could not have been very easily overlooked by Mr. and Mrs. Firkins. I therefore advocated music.

After some little conversation in an under tone between Mrs. Firkins and Mr. O'Statten, which I could not understand, Mr. O'Statten, who plays the harp with considerable effect, proceeded to get out his instrument and adjust it, for the purpose of delighting us with his musical talents. He sat down to the harp, gave himself a solemn and dignified expression of face and attitude, thumbed the strings, tightened the keys, and was about to commence playing, when the door opened to the touch of a tall, graceful figure, dressed in the rich, flowing Turkish costume, with an immensely long beard that reached far down his bosom.

The new-comer wore a splendid turban and turboosh, and a long Turkish sabre swung at his side, suspended by rich hangings from his ample sash, into which were thrust two large duelling-pistols, with gold-mounted and elaborately-wrought stocks. In all respects he looked like a Turk of high degree.

The imposing appearance of the august visiter impressed us with an idea of the prodigious consequence of Mr. Firkins, and we could not help thinking that the eastern question was at last in a fair way of being brought to a happy termination—that gentleman in Turkish costume can be no other than the Grand Seignior himself, come here, no doubt, through the influence of Mr. Firkins, to smoke a pipe with Mehemet Ali, and hush up all differences between them, thereby preserving, for the present, the peace of the world, and preventing the effusion of blood about the settlement of so trifling a matter as that of which tyrant shall have dominion over the wretched barbarians of the promised land. “Admirable!” and if the thing is really brought about through the influence of Mr. Firkins, he will deserve a place in Westminster Abbey or St. Paul’s, at some future day, as much, to say the least, as Colonel McNab deserved to be knighted for the outrage of piracy, arson, and murder committed a few years since on the American shores.

“Very good—very good indeed; and we are to have the honour of coming in contact with these two great personages without the cumbersome and disagreeable form of an introduction at their palaces!” “The Grand Sultan is already here, and Mehemet Ali must be close at hand, without doubt!”—“What an elevated circle we have dropped into this evening! The great eastern question, that has been so long discussed, vexed and agitated, is really to be settled amicably, over the tea-table of Mr. Firkins; the

peace of the world is to be preserved; Mehemet Ali and the Sultan are to shake hands in friendship to-night; old differences are to be adjusted, new friendships formed, new embraces, much smoking, some clattering of glasses and coffee-cups, etc. What an enlarged and prodigious man this Mr. Firkins must be!"

As I was hurriedly ruminating upon these things, with my eyes on the door to see who was coming next, (for I expected every minute to see the friend of Mr. Firkins, Mehemet Ali, enter the room with the Sultan's pipe,) this mysterious, Turkish-looking gentleman advanced with an easy and graceful step toward Mrs. Firkins, bowed with his right hand on his heart in the eastern manner, and addressed her in English! "What!" "Who can it be?" "It's not the Sultan, after all"—nor did Mehemet Ali make his appearance at all during the evening! Strange! "But who can this singular apparition be? Nothing less than a Pacha, certainly!"

Still I had an idea that the circle was rather brilliant; for, besides Mr. and Mrs. Firkins, there were Mr. O'Statten, the Irish harper; Mr. O'Screensbury, Mr. and Mrs. Wrinklebottom, and the two Misses Wrinklebottom, and their French governess, besides the gentleman in Turkish costume, who had just taken a seat near Mrs. Firkins, and entered into conversation with all the ease and fluency of a man who had been used to European society. I could not help thinking these Turks curious fellows, judging from the specimen before me.

“He talks like a Turk who has been born in England, and lived there all his days,” said the doctor, in a whisper to me, who, I conjectured from that, began to have some strange misgivings as to the authenticity of his Turkship’s credentials.

I observed that Mrs. C.’s curiosity was wound up to the highest pitch. Mrs. Wrinklebottom and the two Misses Wrinklebottom were in a state of feverish excitement.

Mr. Wrinklebottom and Mr. O’Screensbury were taken as much by surprise as the rest of us. But I noticed Mr. O’Statten, who had wiped off the solemnity from his face, and laid away his harp, cast rather significant glances, with his finger on his nose, toward Mrs. Firkins; while Mr. Firkins continued to draw wind into his stomach from his hookah, without uttering a word.

“Strange, all this,” thought I, “and I don’t believe this English-spoken Turk will turn out to be even a Pacha!” What a disappointment! “But how is it? What does it all mean? It cannot be possible that Englishmen come off here and make such figures of themselves, certainly!”

“Who is he?—what is he?” said I to Mr. Firkins, toward whom I carefully drew my chair, for the purpose of learning, if possible, something of the history of an object that had broken up our musical entertainment, and thrown the whole party into a lilydew of apprehension.

Mr. Firkins very obligingly entered into an explanation of the phenomenon. He said it was a

young man from England, Mr. Christopher Sneezebiter, eldest son of Sir Christopher Sneezebiter, a gentleman of easy circumstances and considerable political influence in the county of Kent.

“It is true,” said he, “that Mr. Sneezebiter graduated at Oxford, and will succeed to the title and the Sneezebiter estates at the death of his father; but just at present, there is a wide difference between him and Sir Christopher, which has occasioned his residence in this country for several years. Sir Christopher Sneezebiter,” continued Mr. Firkins, “is a high tory, an uncompromising stickler for the corn-laws, and a churchman of the old school, who would not, under any consideration whatever, give his consent to the establishment of a general system of education throughout the kingdom, unless that system be completely and most absolutely under the control and spiritual guidance of the church of England. He has educated his own children in a liberal and genteel manner, and well he might, for he is a man of ample fortune. But as Christopher, the young gentleman now in conversation with Mrs. Firkins, ran through a large sum of money during his collegiate course at Oxford, and exhibited some rather prodigal inclinations afterward, his father put him upon a restricted annual allowance of only two thousand pounds. This paltry sum being altogether too trifling in amount to sustain the young man in anything like decent society in London, where he had entered his name at Lincolns’-Inn-Fields, he at once abandoned the law and came out to the East.

After travelling through Turkey and Syria, he settled down in Egypt, and has never been to England since. He draws regularly on Sir Christopher for his two thousand a year; and here, where everything is comparatively cheap, he manages, somehow or other, I believe, to get on without running much into debt."

"Really!" said I.

"Yes," said Mr. Firkins, "and what may be considered not a little curious, perhaps, among people from England and America, where the education of the young is so much neglected as to give them very little or no taste for the enjoyment of the natural sciences, Mr. Sneezebiter, since his residence in this country, has paid great attention to that branch of study, until he has finally become the greatest connoisseur in snakes, lizards, scorpions, and everything of that kind, in all Egypt."

"Indeed!" said I.

"Yes," resumed Mr. Firkins, "he is very clever at all that sort of thing; and understands the intrinsic value of each species, and their comparative worth, as well as any gentleman in the Levant."

"But," said I, "does Mr. Sneezebiter give his whole attention to that study? Has he no other occupation?"

"Yes," said Mr. Firkins, "he has; though he passes a large part of his time with the snake-merchants and in his snakery, which comprises some beautiful specimens—the most splendid that I have ever seen in any part of this country. Many of his lizards and scorpions, which are superb, cost him an im-

mense sum; and his snakes are all the rage now among the admirers of these animals, both in Alexandria and Cairo."

"That is marvellous," said Mr. Wrinklebottom, who, till that moment, had been a silent listener to this historical account of young Mr. Sneezebiter, "and," continued Mr. Wrinklebottom, "what else does this extraordinary young man do here?"

"Why," replied Mr. Firkins, after giving two or three strong pulls at his hookah, "he has established, in Upper Egypt, for the amusement of his friends, and to fill up his own time after snake-hours are over on 'change, a harem; and I understand he is about opening negotiations for the establishment of a branch in this city, though of this part of Mr. Sneezebiter's enterprise I am sorry to be obliged to speak more discouragingly. He does not seem to possess the right kind of genius and tact for matters of this kind; and though he has been dabbling in them for more than five years, and expended enormous sums of money in rich dresses and in collecting subjects, yet, I believe, he can only boast of a kind of fifth-rate country harem after all. He has great taste for snakes and all that sort of thing, and has established a reputation in that line that will not be easily shaken; but a harem is another sort of business; it requires great genius and a thorough-bred Turk to succeed well in getting up a splendid harem. Englishmen have often tried it, but have never yet succeeded well in it, and never will."

Mr. Wrinklebottom now settled down into a kind

of ruminating attitude, and with his hands clinched over the back of his chair, and his head a little inclined over the right shoulder, he began to hum, in an under tone, "God save the Queen." Mr. Firkins continued drawing at his hookah, without saying anything further about Mr. Sneezebiter, who still kept up an animated conversation with Mrs. Firkins in another part of the room, toward whom I drew my chair, with a view of picking up some ideas as they might fall from the lips of this oracle of the science of snakes and reptiles.

Mr. Sneezebiter was deeply and earnestly engaged upon his favourite theme. He told Mrs. Firkins that every house in Egypt had more or less snakes in it, and scorpions too. "And," said he, "it is one of the greatest blessings to the country that ever happened, for they are greatly conducive to health. A house in Egypt," continued Mr. Sneezebiter, "without snakes in it, would not be fit to live in a single day, the air would become so impure."

"Why," said Mrs. Firkins, "really, Mr. Sneezebiter, you can hardly be in earnest—you are not so scandalous as to believe that we have snakes here in our house, are you?"

"Scandalous!" replied Mr. Sneezebiter. "Snakes in your house! I'll lay a wager, now, of the finest lizard in my collection, against fifty pounds, that you have more than twenty snakes in your house this very minute; and, what's more," said he, "give me liberty to search for them, and I'll bring them all up here into your drawing-room in half an hour."

“Abominable! Mr. Sneezebiter,” exclaimed Mrs. Firkins. “You frighten me out of my wits. Selim,” continued Mrs. Firkins, addressing herself to one of the Arab servants, “bring me the Cologne water;” and, casting a look of wildness and concern around the room, she said, “Don’t say anything more about snakes, I beg of you, Mr. Sneezebiter. I shall not sleep a wink all night.”

“What a foolish whim that!” said Mr. Sneezebiter, at the same time pulling up the sleeve of his left arm above the elbow, and exhibiting several deep prints of the teeth of a snake. “See here,” said he, “what was done the other day in a tussle I had with some snakes that I was bringing down from Cairo; they were some wild-horned fellows—the only ones that I could find on sale there good for anything.”

“And,” said the doctor, who had just taken a seat in that part of the room, “what, pray, do you do with snakes?”

“Do with snakes?” replied Mr. Sneezebiter; “why, I let them curl around my neck, carry them about with me in my bosom and pockets.”

“Impossible!” cried Mrs. Wrinklebottom.

“O! horrid!” said the two Misses Wrinklebottom in the same breath.

“What a wretch!” exclaimed Mr. O’Screensbury.

“But you don’t mean to say,” exclaimed Mrs. Firkins to Mr. Sneezebiter, “that you came here with snakes in your bosom?”

“In truth, Mrs. Firkins,” replied Mr. Sneezebiter,

“you have rarely or never seen me without them in my bosom and pockets too.”

“Dreadful!” exclaimed Mrs. Firkins, at the same instant drawing her chair a little further from that of Mr. Sneezebiter, and casting a look behind her.

All present looked as though they felt snakes and lizards crawling over them. It was a moment of the deepest excitement.

“But,” continued Mrs. Firkins, “you have no snakes about you to-night, I hope?”

Mr. Sneezebiter, to the surprise of everybody, and without replying to the last question, thrust his right hand deep into his bosom; and, while every eye was riveted upon him, and all the party described a circle with their chairs, he with the greatest unconcern and *nonchalance* imaginable, pulled out a large, mysterious-looking, black-spotted—*pocket-handkerchief!*



MR. SNEEZEBITER'S WIPER.

CHAPTER IV.

Some of the Plagues of Egypt, and a touch of the Night-mare. — Captain Underdone, and his taste for Snakes, Lizards, Scorpions, and other Reptiles. — House-snakes. — Snake-charmers and Snake-eaters of the East. — Sacred Reptiles of Egypt. — Opinions of Diodorus, Plutarch, Wilkinson, and Champollion. — Asp-formed Crowns of the ancient Kings and Queens of Egypt. — Asp-headed Deities. — The Statues of Isis crowned with Asps. — Dancing Snakes of India. — Probable cause of Cleopatra's choice to die by the venomous sting of the Asp.

As might have been expected, after returning to the hotel from the party mentioned in the last chapter, we had a crawling sensation all over us, and a thorough hunt about the apartment for snakes. I took a candle in one hand and a cane in the other, and began to pry up the coverlets, blankets, and sheets of the bed, expecting to see more or less snakes, of considerable size, tumble upon the floor, which I was determined to kill on the spot, let the consequence be what it might. Finding none of these Egyptian playthings among the sheets and coverlets, I continued the investigation down through bolsters, mattress, and straw bed, even to the old iron bedstead itself; and that, too, I rolled about, to see if I could not raise a scorpion at least; but I could not discover any thing of the kind.

“Well, this is droll enough,” said I; “for, from the stirring account that we have heard to-night, one might reasonably enough have expected to raise, in a search of this kind, half a dozen good-sized snakes, and as many scorpions, besides a sprinkling of lizards.” I continued to shake the window-curtains and look behind the bureaus, tables, chairs, etc., and thought it perfectly unaccountable. I did not know what to make of the business; but having searched thoroughly enough to find them, were there any of these abominable reptiles there, and not being successful, I naturally concluded that there were no snakes in Egypt.

“Certainly,” said Mrs. C., “it does seem that you have done your duty manfully, and I don’t see what else we can do about it.”

The fact is, neither of us could have thrown any further light upon the subject, and so we threw ourselves into bed.

Our good friend the doctor, who had a room next to ours, was not so easily satisfied, I presume; though I never took occasion to broach the subject to him subsequently. But we heard him, long after we had retired, making certain suspicious and careful movements about the room, which we construed into a very thorough snake and scorpion investigation.

While pondering upon the singular and strange events and incidents of this our first day in Egypt, we both fell asleep.

I was soon lost to all recollection of the plagues of Egypt, and every thing else. At length I imagined

that I was attacked by a large number of the most venomous reptiles in the land. Anacondas, boa-constrictors, scorpions, lizards, and snakes surrounded me on all sides; and I even felt their deadly stings fastening upon my legs and arms as I struggled against their horrid assault. I endeavoured to make my escape from their infernal coils, by running away. This, however, I found impossible; for they met me, with their heads erect, at every turn; and, with open mouths and forked tongues, seemed ready to devour me. I imagined myself on the banks of the Nile, and thought I would plunge into the river and swim to the other side; but when I cast my eyes toward that doubtful door of escape, an innumerable host of crocodiles, more hideous than the serpents themselves, were playing about upon the surface of the water, with distended jaws, offering me a reception more revolting and dreadful than Jonah met with when cast into the sea by the relentless mariners of Joppa. Driven to a fearful extremity, and no one near to relieve me, and just as a large snake was coiling his cold length around me — while I was choaking in his slimy folds, and struggling in the last agonies of death, I gasped, screamed aloud, and——awoke.

On being asked what was the matter, I answered, “Nothing, I believe, but a slight touch of the night-mare.” I endeavoured to address myself again to sleep, but that was utterly out of the question; for, although there were no evil spirits in the bed, I found, on examination, some twenty or thirty large fleas, and little creeping things too numerous to par-

ticularize. I thought, really, we were among the "plagues of Egypt" at last.

These things naturally annoy an uninitiated traveller; but the Egyptians themselves are so used to fleas, bedbugs, scorpions, snakes, and all that sort of thing, that they talk about them with much composure, and look upon them as matters of course, for which there is no remedy. They have learned to dwell with them promiscuously in their houses, and contrive, by hook or by crook, to get along with them — somewhat, perhaps, like an ill-connected married couple; who, being "paired, not matched," now and then clinch each other by the hair or the knuckles, yet manage to jog on together, and fulfil at least a portion of the commandments, notwithstanding their disagreements.

What struck us as being rather a remarkable taste, especially for Europeans, is one which seems to be progressing to a state of great perfection, through the influence and talents of young Mr. Sneezebiter and some of his English friends, for petting and dealing in snakes and such like abominable things. I saw, during our wanderings in the East, several of these English connoisseurs in reptiles, besides Mr. Sneezebiter; though he certainly had more distinction in the science than all the rest of them.

There was an English officer, Captain Underdone, a rather sprightly-looking young gentleman, with quite a handsome mustache, for whom a commission in the army had but a short time previously been purchased, who also might justly have

been considered, I think, very enterprising in the snake business. He accompanied us through the desert. But, as I shall have occasion to give a further account of this gentleman in the subsequent pages of this work, I will here simply observe that he made a collection, in Upper Egypt, of several kinds of snakes and lizards, which he carefully carried through the desert to Syria, and thence, I suppose, to England; adding such kinds of scorpions and other venomous reptiles as he most fancied by the way. He was quite successful in his researches at Petra and Mount Sinai, and swelled his charge to a most terrific bulk; so much so, that I was fearful that the whole caravan would be stung to death with his snakes.

If this passion for snakes, asps, and scorpions increases among the English in proportion to the increased number of travellers in the East from Great Britain, it will not be long before the rage for speculation in these reptiles in Egypt will reach as fearful a pitch as the speculative mania for "up-town lots" ever attained in New York; or even the madness of the Dutch, when they paid thousands of dollars for a single flower-root.

Whatever may be said in favour of or against the refined taste of the English in this matter, it is a well-known fact that snakes have been held in no little regard in Egypt, and, indeed, in most of the countries of the East, from time immemorial.

There were snake-charmers in the land of Judea in the time of David, Solomon, and Jeremiah, of

which fact the Bible bears incontestable evidence: "Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely."* Again: "Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment."† And, "Behold, I will send serpents, cockatrices, among you, which will not be charmed, and they shall bite you, saith the Lord."‡ Professed snake-charmers are not only to be met with, at the present day, in the Holy Land, and in other parts of Turkey, but in Egypt§ there are many of these professional gentlemen, who go about the country with their bosoms full of snakes, and have no other occupation but that of charming snakes, and clearing houses of such reptiles as the occupants may take a notion to expel.

This service, on the part of the charmers, is performed for a trifling remuneration, and occupies but a few moments.

The most celebrated among these serpent-charmers are the dervishes. Others have embraced the profession, but with less success. They pretend to be able to determine whether there are serpents in a house or not, before commencing the search. This is very remarkable; and by some it is believed that the charmers practise a deception upon the unwary, by taking a snake from their bosom, and exhibiting the same as one which they pretend to have found in the house.

* Psalm lviii. 4, 5. † Ecclesiastes x. 11. ‡ Jeremiah viii. 17.

§ Lane's Modern Egyptians, vol. ii. p. 106.

Their skill is said to have been tested under circumstances that would seem to preclude the possibility of such deception. Sometimes they have been deprived of all their clothes, and required to perform their strange enchantments in a state of nudity, and have been as successful as under ordinary circumstances. When they enter a house for this purpose, they are said to "put on an air of mystery—strike the walls with a short palm-stick—whistle—make a clucking noise with their tongue—spit upon the ground—and generally say, 'I adjure you by God, if ye be above or if ye be below, that you come forth: I adjure you by the most great Name, if ye be obedient, come forth; and if ye be disobedient, die! die! die!'"

These serpent-charmers sometimes carry scorpions in their caps and hats, and frequently, too, next to the bare skin; as they generally shave off the hair of the head, and during some of their high religious festivals, they are said to devour live serpents. This horrid custom, though scarcely less revolting than many other abominable absurdities often practised among barbarous and uncivilized nations, has, nevertheless, been almost wholly abolished by the Egyptians. But it was the practice, until within the last few years, for the serpent-charmers, in the festival observed in honour of the birth of the Prophet, to eat live serpents, though it was not always done in public. It was generally performed before a select number, including the sheik of the order of dervishes, and other persons of distinction.

Mr. Lane says, in his account of the manners and customs of the modern Egyptians, that "serpents and scorpions were not unfrequently eaten by *Saadees* during his former visit to that country; and whenever a *Saadee* ate the flesh of a live serpent, he was, or affected to be, excited to do so by a kind of phrensy."* He also adds, that "serpents are not always handled with impunity by *Saadees* or charmers. A few years ago, a dervish of this sect, who was called el-Feel (or the Elephant), from his bulky and muscular form, and great strength, and who was the most famous serpent-eater of his time, and of any age, having a desire to rear a serpent of a very venomous kind, which his boy had brought him among others that he had collected in the desert, put this reptile into a basket, and kept it for several days without food, to weaken it. He then put his hand into the basket to take it out, for the purpose of extracting its teeth, but it immediately bit his thumb. He called for help; there were, however, none but women in the house, and they feared to come to him; so that many minutes elapsed before he could obtain assistance. His whole arm was then found to be swollen and black, and he died after a few hours."

Whether the ancient Egyptians were more or less powerful in their works of enchantment than the moderns, it is pretty certain, from the many sculptured representations of the serpent that are still visible upon their temples, tombs, and monumental erections, that this reptile took a much higher grade

* Lane's Modern Egyptians, ii. 207.

in former times, than it seems to hold among the Egyptians of the present day. Some English admirers of this animal may ascribe this circumstance to a want of taste on the part of the modern Egyptians, and the downward tendency that has fastened upon every thing in that country since the Persian conquest. No doubt great corruptions have crept into the manners, customs, and religious worship of the Egyptians since Cambyses marched his victorious army into the country, and overturned their gods; though they were not, probably, quite perfect, in their most prosperous days.

Snakes were among the sacred animals of the ancient Egyptians, though all kinds of serpents were not deemed sacred. The horned snake was sacred to the god Amun, at Thebes, and is found embalmed in the tombs of that remarkable city at the present day.

The asp, too, must have been accounted very sacred, and is often seen sculptured upon the temples. Mr. Wilkinson says, in his *Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians*, that the "Genius of the lower country, a goddess who was the guardian protectress of the monarchs, is represented under the form of an asp, frequently with wings, having the crown of Lower Egypt, which is also worn by her when figured as a goddess." The goddess* "Soven or Eilethya, the protectress of mothers in child-birth, is sometimes represented with the body of a vulture and the head of a snake." "This goddess,"

* Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, Second Series, ii. 45.

he says, "may also be the genius of the upper country or the South, opposed to the genius of the lower country." The goddess Ranno, represented with the head of an asp, is common in the oldest temples. She was frequently employed as the nurse of young princes, whose early education is supposed to have been intrusted to her care, and she presided over gardens. The goddess Melsigor, or Mersokar, styled ruler of the West, or of Amenti, "the lower regions," was sometimes represented under the form of a winged asp. "The asp, also," says Mr. Wilkinson, "was sacred to Neph; and that deity, one of the eight greatest of the Egyptians, is frequently represented in the tombs, standing in a boat, with the serpent over him; and he is not unfrequently seen with this emblem on his head without any other ornament."* This serpent was the type of do-



ASP-FORMED CROWNS OF EGYPT.

minion; for which reason it was affixed to the head-dresses of the Egyptian monarchs; and a prince, on his accession to the throne, was entitled to wear this distinctive badge of royalty, which, before the death

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, Second Series, i. 239.

of his father, he was not authorized to adopt. Many other parts of the royal dresses were ornamented with the same emblem; and the "asp-formed crowns," mentioned on the Rosetta stone, were exclusively appropriated to the kings and queens of Egypt. The asp also signified, in hieroglyphics, a goddess, and when opposed to the vulture, "*the lower country*;" and it was given to Rê, the physical sun, probably as an emblem of that dominion which he held over the universe, and from his character of prototype of the Pharaohs.

Champollion says that "the name *uræus*, given to the snake, derives its origin from *ouro*, in Coptic a king."*

Herodotus says that "the horned snake was sacred to Amun, or Amun-Re, the Jupiter of Thebes, who was 'king of the gods,' and under the name Amunre he was the intellectual sun, distinct from Rê, the physical orb."†

Diodorus says that "the Egyptian and Ethiopian priests had asps coiled up in the caps they wore in religious ceremonies."

Plutarch says‡ that "the asp is worshipped, on account of a certain resemblance between it and the operations of the Divine power: and being in no fear of old age, and moving with great facility, though it does not seem to enjoy the proper organs for motion, it is looked upon as a proper symbol of the stars."

The asp was a reptile, however abominable and

* Champollion, Pantheon, Nef. † Herodotus, i. 406. ‡ Plut. de Is., s. 7.

repulsive it may appear to us, which enjoyed sacred honours throughout ancient Egypt. It is said to have been rendered so tame and docile by the care that was taken of it, that it lived in a state of harmless quietude with the Egyptian children, and would come upon the table, when called, to eat its food.

Mr. Wilkinson says that the asp "was called Thermuthis, and with it the statues of Isis were crowned as with a diamond."—"Asp-formed crowns" are often sculptured on the heads of Egyptian deities, "and the statues of the mother and wife of Amunoph, (the Vocal Memnon,) in the plain of Thebes, have crowns of this kind." This serpent is said to have been "the emblem of invincible power and royalty," and to have been worn in different colours, ornamenting the crowns of the kings and queens of Egypt. Mr. Wilkinson* quotes a story of Ælian, about a serpent "called Parias or Paruas, dedicated to Esculapius, and another which was sacred to the Egyptian Melite, which had priests and ministers, a table and a bowl. It was kept in a tower, and fed by priests with cakes made of flour and honey, which they placed there in the bowl. Having done this, they retired. The next day, on returning to the apartment, the food was found to be eaten, and the same quantity was again put into the bowl, for it was not lawful for any one to see the sacred reptile. On one occasion, a certain elder of the priests, being anxious to behold it, went in alone, and having deposited the cake, withdrew, until the moment when he supposed

* Wilkinson's "Ancient Egyptians," Second Series, ii. 240.

the serpent had come forth to its repast. He then entered, throwing open the door with great violence; upon which the serpent withdrew in evident indignation, and the priest became shortly after frantic; and, having confessed his crime, expired."

In connexion with this subject, perhaps the reader will not be displeased with the perusal of the following anecdotes of the dancing-snake of India, from a gentleman of high station in the Honourable Company's service at Madras: "One morning, as I sat at breakfast," relates this gentleman, "I heard a loud noise and shouting among my palanquin-bearers. On inquiry, I learned that they had seen a large hooded snake, and were trying to kill it. I immediately went out, and saw the snake crawling up a very high green mound, whence it escaped into a hole in an old wall of an ancient fortification. The men were armed with their sticks, which they always carry in their hands, and had attempted in vain to kill the reptile, which had eluded their pursuit, and coiled himself up securely in his hole, where we could distinctly see the bright shining of his eyes. I had often desired to ascertain the truth of the report as to the effect of music upon snakes: I therefore inquired for a snake-catcher. I was told there was no person of the kind in the village; but after a little inquiry, I heard there was one in a village three miles distant. I accordingly sent for him, keeping strict watch over the snake, which never attempted to escape while we, his enemies, were in sight. About an hour elapsed, when my messenger returned, bringing a snake-catcher

This man wore no covering on his head, nor any on his person, excepting a small piece of cloth round his loins. He had in his hand two baskets, one containing some snakes, and one empty. These and his musical pipe were the only things he had with him. I made the snake-catcher leave his two baskets on the ground at some distance, while he ascended the mound with his pipe alone. He began to play: at the sound of music, the snake came gradually and slowly out of his hole. When he was entirely within reach, the snake-catcher seized him dexterously by the tail, and held him thus at arm's length; while the snake, enraged, darted his head in all directions, but in vain. Thus suspended, he had not the power to raise himself so as to seize hold of his tormentor. He exhausted himself in vain exertions; when the snake-catcher descended the bank, dropped him into the empty basket, and closed the lid. He then began to play, and after a short time, raising the lid of the basket, the snake darted about wildly, and attempted to escape; the lid was shut down again quickly, the music always playing. This was repeated two or three times; and, in a very short interval, the lid being raised, the snake sat on his tail, opened his hood, and danced as quietly as the tame snakes in the other basket; nor did he again attempt an escape. This having witnessed with my own eyes, I can assert as a fact.*

“The cabra de capella, or hooded-snake, is a large and beautiful serpent, but one of the most venomous.

* Penny Magazine, No. 65, April, 1833.

It has the power of contracting or enlarging its hood the centre of which is marked in black and white, like a pair of spectacles, on which account it is called the spectacle snake. Of this kind are the dancing snakes, which are carried in baskets through Hindostan, and procure maintenance for a set of people who play a few simple notes on the flute, with which the snakes seem much delighted—and keep time by a graceful motion of the head, erecting about half their length from the ground, and following the music with gentle curves.” — “Among my drawings,” writes an Eastern traveller, “is that of a cabra de capella, which danced for an hour on the table, while I painted it; during which time I frequently handled it, to observe the beauty of the spots, and especially the spectacles on the hood, not doubting but that its venomous fangs had been previously extracted. But the next morning my upper servant came to me in great haste, and desired that I would instantly retire, and praise God for my good fortune. Not understanding his meaning, I told him that I had already performed my devotions. He then informed me, that while purchasing some fruit, he observed the man who had been with me on the preceding evening, entertaining the country-people with his dancing snakes. They, according to their usual custom, sat on the ground around him; when, either from the music stopping too suddenly, or from some other cause irritating the vicious reptile, which I had so often handled, it darted at the throat of a young woman, and inflicted a wound of which she died in about half an hour.”*

* Extracts of Travellers, p. 222.

The domestic, or house-snake, is said to have been held in great estimation by the ancient Egyptians. This animal destroyed the rats, mice, and other annoying vermin that collected in the dwellings and other houses of the inhabitants, and was used as an emblematical representation of eternity. Though greatly respected, it is said not to have been sacred to any of the deities of Egypt. Still it is sometimes seen in the mysterious subjects represented in the tombs.

Mr. Wilkinson says that "the snakes in former times played a conspicuous part in the mysteries of religion; many of the subjects in the tombs of the kings at Thebes, in particular, show the importance it was thought to enjoy in a future state;"* and Ælian mentions a "subterranean chapel and closet at each corner of the Egyptian temples, in which the Thermuthis asp was kept;"† thereby indicating the universal custom throughout the country of keeping a sacred serpent.

Herodotus says that "in the environs of Thebes is a species of sacred snake, of a very small size, on whose head are two horns. They do no harm to man; and when they die, they are buried in the temple of Jupiter, to whom they are reputed to be sacred."‡ This horned serpent is said, however, to be very venomous, and is now often found in the valley of the Nile and in the desert. Instead of its being harmless to man, it is considered very dangerous on account of its concealing itself in the sand,

* Wilkinson's 'Ancient Egyptians,' 2d Series, ii. 243.

† Ælian, x. 31. ‡ Herodotus, ii. 74.

which it so nearly resembles in colour, that one is unaware of danger until it is often too late.

The snake, in all ages of the world, seems, indeed, "to have played a conspicuous part." And while it has shared in the divine honours of some countries, it has ever been held in the most abominable detestation and fear in others. Whether this enmity is all in consequence of the curse of God pronounced upon this odious creature, for insidiously beguiling Eve, and entailing upon mankind such a weight of sin, sorrow, and wo, as most people find upon their shoulders in this wicked world, or not, some may be inclined, perhaps, to doubt; since the good understanding that has subsisted between the snake and its admirers seems to have been, with the ancients, more a matter of taste and whim than any thing else, and is so among snake-fanciers at the present day. So that the "enmity" which God declared that He would "put between Eve and the serpent, and between her seed and his seed," seems not to have been an enmity that has not occasionally been broken in upon by friendship, respect, and adoration on the part of man toward this detestable reptile.

The serpent, however, was not always looked upon by the ancient Egyptians with the same kind of veneration; for "some regarded it with unbounded horrors." And "some religions have considered it emblematical both of a good and a bad Deity."

Isis, with "ten thousand other names," the wife of

Osiris, "the judge of the dead," had the title of Thermuthis, "*the giver of death*," applied to her; and it is said the latter name was given to the *asp*, or *basilisk*, with which the statues of Isis were crowned.

Mr. Wilkinson says, that "Isis was more frequently worshipped as a deity in the temples of Egypt than Osiris, except in his mystical character."* If this be the case, this goddess, bearing the title of "the giver of death," synonymous with the word *asp* or *basilisk*, and "judge of the dead," whose statues were crowned with asps—must have been held in great veneration by the kings and queens of Egypt; and may be the reason, perhaps, why the beautiful, but frail Cleopatra chose to yield her existence to the poisonous coils of the deadly asp, rather than fall into the victorious arms of Augustus.

* Wilkinson's 'Ancient Egyptians,' 2d Series, i. 366.



THE COIL OF THE MODERN BOA.

CHAPTER V.

A new Acquaintance. — Introduction to Nebby Daood. — Caution against making acquaintance with the Humbug Family in Egypt. — Mrs. Firkins and the Out-runners of the East. — A Ride to the Baths of Cleopatra and the Catacombs. — An Egyptian Governor and his Footmen. — Almost a Disaster. — The Store-houses of the Pacha. — Arabs at Dinner. — Cause of the Egyptian Ophthalmia. — Manner of Eating in the East. — Deference observed toward the Master of the House. — Turkish Manner of Carving. — Mode of Cooking in Egypt. — Onions and Garlic. — Marks of Civility shown to Guests. — Beverage of the Egyptians. — Water of the Nile. — Contributions of the Pacha to the Grand Sultan of Turkey. — Water-carriers at the Tombs of the Saints. — Peasant-women and their Trinkets. — Wind-mills, and the way the Arabs carry Corn to Mill. — Women cleaning the Streets with their Hands. — Dog Population, and their Manners and Customs.

THE next morning, when I came into the drawing-room, I found the doctor in conversation with a gentleman in an oriental cap and long beard, a countryman of ours, whom I was much gratified to meet in that distant part of the world.

This gentleman had been absent some years from the United States, and had travelled through Russia, Turkey, Syria, and Egypt. He communicated to

us many items of valuable information respecting the manners and customs of the countries that we were about to visit. He particularly warned us against "scraping an acquaintance" with the different branches of the Humbug family, which he represented as being very numerous in all parts of the Levant.

While we were engaged in conversation, we were joined by another American, of less prepossessing appearance at first glance, though there was that subdued and sad expression pervading his face, that could hardly fail to interest a stranger, and to excite a curiosity to know something of his history.

His threadbare coat, broken out in several places, hung upon his shoulders as if it had been made for a figure of larger dimensions. His pantaloons, scarcely reaching down to his ankles, were rudely patched on the knees, and seemed ready to break down in other parts. His boots, patched in several places in their upper works, threatened a speedy dissolution of sole and body. His hat, split off from the crown, and running up to an uncouth height, was beaten in on one side, and evidently in the last state of decay. He had on a tattered waistcoat, and a little checked cravat; and his new-cropped beard indicated a soapless shave, with a dull razor.

Doleful as was the appearance of this individual, he was known and esteemed by the gentleman with whom we were in conversation, who had the goodness to introduce us to Nebby Daood, from the State of Ohio.

Poor Nebby Daood, a nick-name that some of his

friends had given him in the upper country, but for what reason I do not know, was born to a cheerless fortune. He appeared melancholy, and almost heart-broken. He said little, and seldom or never smiled.

I felt touched and interested in him, and was confident that there was an under-current working in his soul, that few of the cold, selfish beings of the world would have the least curiosity in contemplating. A few words only, however, closed our interview; and I parted with him, on his giving his promise to come and dine with me on that day at five o'clock. Indeed, I was almost sure of his punctual attendance, before I gave him the invitation; for it is seldom that one is mortified with a refusal on such occasions by persons of Nebby's appearance.

After we parted with Nebby, my wife and I got into the carriage with Mrs. Firkins, who had just driven up, with two out-runners, to take us to the baths of Cleopatra and the catacombs of Alexandria.

I now for the first time witnessed a custom, which, in my subsequent wanderings, I found to be prevalent throughout the eastern countries, and is doubtless a very old one—that of runners by the side, or before carriages; after the manner, I suppose, of Elijah running before the chariot of Ahab.* Mrs. Firkins had two; but I have seen as many as four, and even six of these runners attached to the skirts of a distinguished personage in the East, who never slacked the speed of his horse on account of the runners; and they, bearing the pipe, tobacco, etc., of

* 1 Kings xviii. 46.

their master, seem to endure the fatigue of running in this way at the top of their speed, for a long distance, without apparent inconvenience.

These runners accompany individuals on horseback, as well as in carriages. I recollect seeing the governor of a town in Upper Egypt mounted upon horseback, galloping at full speed, with no less than



AN EASTERN GENTLEMAN, WITH OUT-RUNNERS.

six running footmen, all of whom kept up with the horse. It was an animated sight. He was dressed in the gay costume of the country; and his horse, a fine Arabian, richly caparisoned, bounded off beautifully over the plain, conscious, apparently, of the dignity and important character of his rider.

In our case, there was little to boast of on the score of runners or carriage. The runners had scarcely a rag of clothes about them; and the car-

riage was so miserably cramped, that it was next to impossible for more than two persons to sit in it. Consequently, I took my seat on the front part of the body, with my feet dangling down outside, and resting upon the shafts. In this agreeable position, the duty of driving the horse, which was rather a spirited one, was assigned to me; while, "more for ornament than use," the two runners took up their positions on the sides of the vehicle: and in this manner we launched off, under a clear sky and burning sun, for a further inspection of the antiquities and wonders of Alexandria.

We had scarcely driven out of the great European Square, before I found myself somewhat in the unenviable state of mind of the gentleman who, on a certain occasion, was taking a nocturnal airing, borne along by his neighbours, in a state of nudity, upon a rail; and being asked by some of his obliging friends around him how he liked it, replied that, "if it were not for the name of riding, he had much rather go on foot."

This feeling was not much ameliorated by a circumstance which occurred in attempting to descend a slight declivity in the road, when the carriage rushed quite on to the horse's heels, so nettling the noble animal as to threaten total destruction to the carriage, and broken limbs to ourselves. I did not fancy the prospect under that state of things at all; and if it had not been for an appearance of incivility toward Mrs. Firkins, I certainly would have sent her and her horse, carriage, and Arab runners home, and

taken donkeys. But, as it was, I got out of the carriage, and proceeded to harness the horse sufficiently far forward to prevent it from striking his heels. This, however, was not accomplished without some difficulty, and coarse growling and sour looks from the Arab runners, who thought that I was interfering with their prerogative; and that, although I might drive the horse, yet I had no right to meddle with the harness, though my omitting to do so might cost me my neck. I differed from them in opinion. We did not, however, exchange many words upon the subject, but made up by looks and signs what we lost by not understanding each other's language.



ARABS AT DINNER.

En route, we passed the Pacha's storehouses of corn, rice, cotton, and other productions of Egypt.

A large number of Arabs in the Pacha's service were seated in front of the stores, eating their dinner. They were in groups of about a dozen each, eating out of little tubs, or earthen pots, with their fingers. They had neither knives nor forks. They all dipped their hands and fingers into the same dish, and enjoyed their meal as all people do who possess that great blessing, a good appetite.

This is the universal manner of eating in Turkey, Syria, and Egypt, and was the same, doubtless, in the days of our Saviour, who said, on the night of the last supper, "He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me."* All classes of the Egyptians, Turks, and Syrians, eat in the



WASHING HANDS BEFORE AND AFTER MEALS.

* Matthew **xvi.** 23.

same manner, seated on the floor, and around a tray or platter containing the food.

It is the practice of the Eastern people to wash their hands before and after their meals, though they are not so particular about their faces; which look as though their possessors had a natural hydrophobia. This is one reason, I am inclined to think, why there are so many persons in that warm climate suffering with ophthalmia and almost total blindness.

The faces of the Arabs are oft-times loathsome to look at, on account of the abominable filth that hangs about them. This is particularly the case with the children of the poorer classes, who are so neglected, that the flies, and sometimes other insects, gather on their faces and settle around their eyes in large clusters, where they remain undisturbed, poisoning the eye, until they fly away of their own accord.

The mode of eating in Turkey is generally conducted with great decorum, and with much deference to the master, or whomsoever presides over the repast, though they all eat rather rapidly. The master of the house commences first, and the guests or other members of the family follow his example. The flowing sleeve of the right arm of each person is tucked up above the elbow, so as not to discommode the party or get besmeared in the dish. The dishes are generally dressed so as to give no one any inconvenience in eating without a knife and fork.

The dishes of the Arabs comprise, for the most part, stewed meats, with onions cut up fine, and

sometimes other vegetables. Rice enters largely into the diet of the orientals. A favourite way of cooking lamb or mutton, is to cut it up in small bits, and roast it on skewers. They eat large quantities of vegetables, such as beans, peas, cabbage, spinage, onions, garlic, etc. Some dishes are composed of vegetables cooked in liquid butter. There are no hogs kept in Egypt, and they have little else to cook with except the butter made from sheep, goat, and cows' milk, and being kept in the warm season in goat-skins, it runs like oil.

The Arab mode of cooking is greasy, and their victuals unwholesome. Garlic or onions enter into the composition of almost every dish. I observed in Greece and Syria, as well as in Egypt, that the people were very fond of these vegetables, and they are frequently seen eating them raw in the streets, and about the market-places. The probability is, that they are relished with as good an appetite by the



AN ANCIENT PRIEST OF EGYPT MAKING AN OFFERING OF ONIONS.

miserable inhabitants of Egypt at the present day, as they were by their more refined ancestors; who, according to some ancient writers, treated them as gods, when taking an oath — which circumstance laid them open to the ridicule of some, on account of their veneration for such odoriferous deities.

Onions and garlic were sometimes forbidden to the ancient priests of Egypt; though, according to Mr. Wilkinson,* they, together with other vegetables, were not forbidden to the generality of the people, to whom they were a principal article of food.

The garlic and onions of Egypt must, no doubt, have been in a high state of perfection in the days of Moses, and in great repute among his murmuring and disobedient hosts, or they would not probably have troubled their leader so much for bringing them out from serving the Egyptians, and away from their flesh-pots, where “they did eat bread to the full.” For they said, in their murmurings, “We remember the fish which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the *onions*, and the *garlic*.”†

* Wilkinson's Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians, First Series, ii. 374. — “The onions of Egypt were mild and of an excellent flavour, and were eaten crude as well as cooked, by persons both of the higher and lower classes; but it is difficult to say if they brought them to table like the cabbage, as a *hors d'œuvre*, to stimulate the appetite, which Socrates recommends in the Banquet of Xenophon. On this occasion, some curious reasons are brought forward for their use by different members of the party. Nicerates observes that onions relish well with wine, and cites Homer in support of his remark. Callias affirms that they inspire courage in the hour of battle; and Charmides suggests their utility in deceiving a jealous wife, who, finding her husband return with his breath smelling of onions, would be induced to believe he had not saluted any one while from home.”

† Numbers xi. 5.

The Arabs seldom or never touch their food with the left hand ; and when a fowl or turkey is to be separated, it is frequently performed by the right hands of two persons sitting near together ; though some of them are so expert in this mode of carving, as to dissect a fowl very handsomely with the right hand alone.

Should the master of the table select any particularly nice bit of meat and offer it to a guest, it is considered a mark of great civility, and should be received in one's mouth from his fingers.

The Arabs have a great variety of dishes, and sometimes get up a whole sheep, lamb, or kid, stuffed with onions, garlic, pistachio-nuts, etc. These, however, are never polluted by the sordid touch of iron or steel after they are brought to table ; but, like the boned fowl, are separated with the right hand by the master of the repast, assisted occasionally by one or more of the guests. It is a greasy business, as one may well enough judge ; but when their hands are washed, it is all over. There are no knives and forks, and no plates, to clean.

The usual beverage of the Egyptians is the water of the Nile ; and a more delicious or more healthful beverage cannot be found, I think, in the world. Its colour is not very tempting, at first, being of a dark yellow, and generally rather deeply charged with small particles of vegetable matter. It is not always drunk in this turbid state, though no injury whatever results to one from drinking it freely before it is set-

bled, and many travellers prefer it fresh-dipped from the Nile.

The Egyptians say, "if the Prophet had drunk of the water of the Nile, he would have lived for ever." This may be doubted; yet I have no doubt if he could have obtained plenty of that delicious water to drink through life, instead of the stagnant water from the brackish springs and pools of the desert, that the old Prophet would have held on to existence somewhat longer than he did.

In our journey through the desert, we carried a supply of the Nile water; and when we arrived at Mount Sinai, we had several gallons of it left in a barrel, which was then as pure and delicious as when we left Cairo, if not more so; while the water that we filled our goat-skins and barrel with at Mount Sinai, though pure, cold, and delightful to the taste when we set out for Akaba, soon changed, and that in the skins, after two or three days, was not fit to drink.

A supply of the Nile water for the use of the Grand Seignior, is included among the yearly contributions of the Pacha of Egypt to the Sultan of Turkey. The Nile water is generally distributed about the streets of Cairo and Alexandria by water-carriers from goat-skins, brought from the river on the backs of camels or donkeys; though some of these *sackkas*, as they are called, being too poor to own those useful animals, bring their goat-skins full from the Nile on their backs—in which case, they generally do business in a small way, and distribute water to per-

sons to drink in the streets. Their usual cry is—
“*O, may God compensate me!*” They hold a cup in one hand, and the mouth of the water-skin in the other; and while their customers are drinking, they keep up an invitation to the thirsty to come and partake of their water.



WATER-CARRIERS.

Water-carriers are numerous on all festive occasions, and during great religious ceremonies. Some are hired by the more conscientious and faithful, to distribute water gratis on religious fetes to all who desire to drink. This charity is generally performed in honour of some saint; and the carrier, as he raises the welcome cry to the thirsty, of water “without money and without price,” invokes the blessings of Heaven upon the soul of his employer, who thus freely quenches the thirst of a fainting being.

None can appreciate the worth of this wholesome



WATER-CARRIER AT THE TOMBS.

and delightful beverage so well as a person of the desert—one who has travelled in the burning heat of those arid regions for days without tasting fresh water, and perhaps without water of any kind.

The people of the eastern countries have always been, more or less frequently, in their intercourse with distant parts, exposed to privations of this kind—a circumstance which must have given additional force to the invitation of our Saviour: “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”* And also to the words of the prophet: † “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea,

* John vii. 37, 38. † Isaiah lv. 1.

come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." And again, the following: "For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills."* And among the bitter accusations brought against Job by his friends, in the days of his affliction, Eliphaz says: "Thou hast not given *water* to the weary to drink, and thou hast withholden bread from the hungry."† But the Scriptures are full of illustrations of this kind; and in no country, perhaps, in the world, could the idea of water, emblematically used, have such force and meaning, as in the land of the Bible and of the prophets. When God wished to make a great moral impression upon the murmuring Israelites, he commanded Moses to bring water from the rock.‡

The peasant-women are the water-carriers for their own family uses in the East, particularly in Egypt. They come down from the villages along the Nile, in great numbers, generally toward evening, and wade into the river a few steps, dip their water-pots, and bear them off upon their heads to their houses.

On these occasions, especially toward evening, I always observed that they wore a greater profusion of trinkets and rude jewellery than ordinarily; though it is the custom of the eastern women, among the lower classes, to carry their fortunes upon their backs, head, face, and hands.

The masks, which the Turkish and Arab women

* Deut. viii. 7. † Job xxii. 7. ‡ Numbers xx. 8.

generally wear, are frequently covered with little gold pieces of money, from their eyes down to a considerable distance below the chin. This, of course, depends upon the riches of the wearer; and some can only afford to wear silver pieces, and very few of them, while others have none at all. This is a kind of sign hung out to indicate the flourishing condition of the person making the display; though, when occasion requires, these bits of money are taken off, and circulated in the market as readily as other coins, that have never been so distinguished. The consequence is, that most of the small gold and silver coins of the East are pierced with holes, that have been made in them for the purpose of fastening them upon the masks and dresses of the women.

The Jewish women, also, of the East, who do not wear masks, hang their gold and silver coins about their necks. I have seen some of them so deeply loaded as to be fairly encumbered with their wealth, though that is not a very common thing among them.

The custom of wearing ornaments, among the water-carriers of the Nile is no doubt a very old one, and may be traced back further, perhaps, than the time of Rebekah, when she came forth, with ornaments, to draw water.*

The Arabs have other drinks than water alone—such as sherbet of various kinds, coffee, beer, and sometimes wines; though this last, being a prohibited beverage, is rarely taken in public, if at all, by the faithful. Coffee is always passed round to guests.

* Gen. xxiv. 30.

after sherbet and pipes, among the Arabs, as well as by the Syrians and Turks, all of whom seem to be exceedingly hospitable.

But to return to the great store-houses of the Pacha, which are not quite so extensive, probably, as were Pharaoh's, in the sunny times of Joseph, though there appeared to be no lack of corn in Egypt even in these degenerate days. And the Arabs were engaged in carrying it from the Pacha's granary to his wind-mills, about two hundred of which stood along upon the beach, overlooking the sea, near by, and giving to that quarter a very singular appearance.

The loose and wasteful manner in which the simple process of carrying corn to mill was conducted by these loyal subjects of the Pacha, who, it is said, work for nothing and board themselves, illustrated, clearly enough to our minds, that very little regard was paid to economy in point of time, or the saving of corn.

An Arab with a little loose basket, holding scarcely twenty quarts, started off at a lazy walk from the granary, strewing the corn by the way at every step, till he reached the mill. This seemed to excite no surprise, as it was a common thing among them all; so that they literally walked upon a bed of corn from the store-houses to the mills.

The streets had become excessively muddy, from the powerful rains that had been pouring down in floods the day before; and we observed, as we drove along, crowds of Arab women and children scraping up the mud in the streets with their hands, collecting

it into baskets, pots, pails, and any thing else that they could get for the purpose, and bearing it off upon their heads.

This to me was a novel mode of cleaning streets, and I observed to Mrs. Firkins, that it was really a pity that those poor creatures should be obliged to clear the streets of the mud and filth with no other implements than their bare hands; I thought the Pacha ought at least to furnish them with hoes, wooden shovels, or something of the kind, to save their hands from such rude and hard usage.

“O!” says Mrs. Firkins, “those women were never so happy in all their lives. They look upon that mud, which they are scraping up with their hands and bearing off upon their heads, as a kind of Godsend, somewhat with the same kind of pleasure, perhaps, with which the children of Israel gathered the manna in the desert.”

“How is that?” said I; “are they not cleaning the streets for the Pacha?”

“Cleaning the streets for the Pacha!” replied Mrs. Firkins—“nobody ever heard of such a thing. The Pacha never has the streets cleaned. There are no street-sweepers or scavengers in Alexandria, except those evil-looking dogs that you see lying about the streets, so much to the annoyance of every body.”

“Why,” said I to Mrs. Firkins, “do they not destroy those dirty dogs, or compel their masters to take care of them, and keep them out of the way?”

“Masters!” said Mrs. Firkins, “they have no masters: and a Turk or Mussulman would no sooner

kill a dog than he would put a knife to his own throat. Consequently the dogs roam about the streets from one year's end to the other, gathering up such bits of meat as are thrown out from the butchers' stalls, and other garbage, with an occasional crust from some who take pity upon them, subsisting in that way, without house, home, or master, through their whole lives. The only provision that is made for the dogs at the public expense, is a supply of water which a carrier is paid for putting into the dog-troughs. That service is defrayed by a contribution on the part of the inhabitants in the neighbourhood where these troughs are established. What is a little curious, these dogs form themselves into clans, or companies, for mutual protection. Each of these clans confines its operations to a particular section of the city, and seldom or never leaves it; while a strange dog, who dares to show his head in the precincts of its jurisdiction, is sure to fare roughly, if he even escapes with his life."

This struck us at the time as being a singular trait in the manners and customs of the Egyptian dogs; and a droll whim on the part of the people, who suffered the canine race to go on in that sluggish and useless way, without insisting upon a reform. We found, on visiting other towns, that it was no peculiarity of Alexandria; but, on the contrary, there were fewer houseless dogs in that city, doing business on their own account, than in almost any town, in proportion to its inhabitants, that we visited in the Turkish dominions.



CHAPTER VI.

Dog-matical Chapter. — Dog Population of Turkey. — Condition of the Dogs not likely to be improved by the interference of the “Great Powers.” — Dog Funeral. — Dogs accounted among the Sacred Animals of Ancient Egypt. — “Every Dog has his day.” — Heads and Bodies shaved at the death of a Dog. — Civil War on account of the Sacred Dogs of Egypt. — Condition of ancient and modern Dogs contrasted. — Byron’s Dog, and the Dog of Frederick the Great. — Declining condition of the Dogs of Egypt since the Persian Conquest. — Sacred Ox Apis killed, and his blood given to the Dogs. — Arabs’ Houses built of the Mud gathered from the Streets. — Domestic Felicity. — An Arab whipping his Wife. — How to make an Impression in Egypt. — Advice of the American Consul. — Description of the Catacombs, and the Baths of Cleopatra.

THE dog population of Cairo is much greater than that of Alexandria, and the dogs seemed to be nearly as badly off there as the poor Jews—perhaps scarcely more respected; while at Jerusalem, Smyrna, and Constantinople, they appeared to be

sufficiently numerous, under proper organization, to sweep all before them, and to devour, without respect to persons or sects, Jews, Armenians, Greeks, Christians, Catholics, Turks, and Dervishes. They really exist in those cities to a most frightful extent; and in the evening, without a military escort of at least one or two armed janizaries with lanterns, it were unsafe for a stranger to walk the streets.

The dogs seldom or never molest the Turks, and persons in the oriental costume; but it is far from being always safe for a Frank to perambulate the streets undisguised.

Formerly, the Franks had not only the prejudices of the dogs to bear up against, in their wanderings through the Turkish dominions, but the Turks themselves would sometimes join in the attacks. This bitterness, however, on the part of the Moslem towards the "Christian dogs," as they used to call the Franks, has been gradually wearing away ever since the winding up of the crusades; and I believe the interference of the "Great Powers" in all Eastern matters, during the last few years, has quite inclined the Turk to look upon Europeans rather more favourably. However, the Moslem hatred towards Christians rankles in the breasts of their dogs; whose condition, so far as I have been able to learn, has been very little improved by this interference of the Allied Powers in Eastern questions, in order, as is avowed, to maintain the balance of power. It still remains a question with many, whether the dogs, after all, have not about as much

reason to be thankful for what has been done for their country by European arms and diplomacy, as the Syrians and Egyptians, or even the Turks themselves.

Although there are dogs enough, one would think, in the streets of every Turkish town to satisfy the most enthusiastic admirer of that animal, (that is, so far as numbers are concerned,) yet the Moslems sometimes rear them in their houses, and treat them with the greatest care and tenderness.

Mr. Lane, in his account of the manners and customs of the modern Egyptians, says "that a woman in Cairo, who had neither husband nor child to solace her, made a companion of her dog. Death took this her only associate away; and in her grief and her affection for it, she determined to bury it, and not merely to commit it to the earth without ceremony, but to inter it as a Moslem, in a respectable tomb in the cemetery of the Imam Esh-Shafeel, which is regarded as especially sacred.

"She washed the dog, according to the rules prescribed to be observed in the case of a deceased Moslem; wrapped it in handsome grave-clothes; sent for a bier and put it in; then hired several wailing women, and, with them, performed a regular lamentation. This done, (but not without exciting the wonder of her neighbours, who could not conjecture what person in her house was dead, yet would not intrude, because she never associated with them,) she hired a number of chanters to head the funeral procession, and school-boys to sing and carry

the Koran before the bier; and the train went forth in respectable order, herself and the hired wailing-women following the bier, and rending the air with their shrieks. But the procession had not advanced many steps, when one of the female neighbours ventured to ask the afflicted lady who the person was that was dead, and was answered, 'It is my child.' The inquirer charged her with uttering a falsehood; and the bereaved lady confessed that it was her dog, begging, at the same time, that her inquisitive neighbour would not divulge the secret; but for an Egyptian woman to keep a secret, and such a secret, was impossible; it was immediately made known to the bystanders, and a mob, in no good humour, soon collected, and put an end to the funeral. The chanters, and the singing-boys, and the wailing-women, as soon as they had secured their money, vented their rage against their employer for having made fools of them; and, if the police had not interfered, she would probably have fallen a victim to popular fury."

There is a case, somewhat similar, mentioned by D'Herbelot, of a Turk who buried a dog, which was a great favourite, with the honours usually observed at the funeral of a Moslem, though in his own garden, and was charged with the offence and brought before the cka'dee. Here the Turk slipped through the fingers of justice, by saying to the cka'dee that the dog had made his will previous to his death, and left his honour a handsome sum of money.

The fact is, dogs have wondrously lost favour with the Egyptians within the last three thousand years or so, and have been going down hill in the estimation of the people of that country ever since the mischief that Cambyses did there. He unsettled every thing; overturned the gods, and killed the ox Apis, of whose flesh the dogs were tempted to taste: whereupon they fell from that pure state in which, till then, they had stood, and which, with all their privation and penance since, they have never been able to regain. Before that act of folly and unpardonable sin on the part of those foolish Egyptian dogs, they were numbered among the sacred animals; and, equally with the present race of European kings and princes, enjoyed the highest honours, and by "divine right."

The lamentable business of tasting the blood of the sacred ox, brought a weight of misfortunes and degradation upon the poor dogs, that they will hardly shake off, I apprehend, in their degenerate state, until the dissolution of the Turkish empire. I do not know what provision is contemplated by the "great powers," in that event, for these poor, degraded animals; or whether, among the fragments of the wreck, they will get a bone to pick or not. It is very doubtful, in my mind, whether they will rise into that third heaven with the European cutters and diplomatic carvers of nations and kingdoms, which they enjoyed under the ancient dynasties of the kings of Egypt; when, as we are told, they took an

honourable stand in church and state through life, and were handsomely embalmed after death.

These were honours, almost worth living a dog's life to enjoy; honours, to which few of the political dogs of our day will or can attain. They may stand high enough in the state, and lead the church by the nose, it is true; but the real old Egyptian embalming of their worthless carcasses, after death, they cannot obtain, for love, gold, or political favour. The art of embalming is lost, probably for ever.

As an illustration of the distinguished position occupied by the ancient dogs of Egypt, previously to the Persian conquest, it may not be amiss to quote a line or two from Mr. Wilkinson and others, who, I think, may be considered very good authority upon all matters touching the manners and customs of the ancient Egyptians.

Mr. Wilkinson says, that "whenever one of these animals died a natural death, all the inmates of the house shaved their heads and their whole bodies; and if any food, whether wine, corn, or any thing else, happened to be in the house at the time, it was forbidden to be applied to any use. The dog was held in great veneration in many parts of Egypt, particularly at the city of Cynopolis, where it was treated with divine honours."

Strabo tells us that "a stated quantity of provision was always supplied by the inhabitants of Cynopolis for their favourite animals; and so tenacious were they of the respect due to them, that a civil war

raged for some time between them and the people of Oxyrhinchus, in consequence of the latter's having killed and eaten them."

Herodotus says, speaking of the ancient Egyptians, and their mode of burying their dogs, that "every one inters them in his own town, where they are deposited in sacred chests."

"We are told," says Mr. Wilkinson, "that, having been perfectly prepared by the embalmers of animals, and wrapped in linen, they were deposited in the tombs allotted to them, the bystanders beating themselves in token of grief, and uttering lamentations in their honour."

So we see that, in those good old Egyptian times, it was something to be even a "dead dog;" for then, "every dog had his day."

Under the degenerate Turks and Arabs, how strangely the lot of the dogs has changed! They are not only obliged to lead a houseless, vagabond kind of life, suffering all manner of reproach, degradation, and want; but after death, they are denied the rites of sepulture, and the benefit of clergy!—and so unclean are they supposed to be, by many of those spotless Moslems of the East, that, "should they, by chance, happen to touch the nose or wet hairs of the poor animal, they would consider themselves defiled, and bound to submit to purification from the contact."

The old idolatrous Egyptians can hardly claim the exclusive honour of burying their dogs in a handsome manner. What has been done, however, in that way,

since their time, must be considered merely a faint imitation of their more enthusiastic virtue and liberality, as exhibited in their unfeigned grief and sorrow at the death of those faithful animals, and the pompous ceremonial observed at their funerals.

Byron buried one of his dogs very handsomely, and wrote some pathetic verses over his grave. And "Frederick the Great," king of Prussia, interred as many as three of his dogs in front of Sans Souci, one of his most favourite palaces, whose graves are always pointed out to strangers, as being among the great things to be seen at Potsdam.

Other eminent instances of distinguished individuals of modern times might be enumerated, in which a proper respect has been paid to dogs after death, were it necessary; but I think enough has already been said upon the subject to illustrate the present wretched condition of the poor dogs in Egypt, contrasted with the elevated rank which they held in that delightful country among the ancients; and besides, I must go back and pick up my wife and Mrs. Firkins, whom I left in the mud, impatient for my return.

"If these women and children," said I to Mrs. Firkins, "are not cleaning the streets for the Pacha, what in the world are they doing?"

"O, my dear sir," replied Mrs. Firkins, "they are working on their own account — gathering mud with which to build their houses. Oftentimes," she continued, "they are obliged to bring the water a considerable distance upon their heads, to mix with the

dirt, and make mud for themselves. But now, having the mud already made to their hands, they are very happy — and go on with their houses famously.”

“Indeed!” said I; “and really one half of the world not only does not know what the other half is about, but the probability is, that more than one half of those things which are looked upon by a majority of mankind as hardships and evils, afflicting others, are, after all, but pastimes and pleasures.”

It would not be an easy matter, perhaps, to a person used to no other than the rugged climate of our country, or that of the north of Europe, to conceive the possibility of erecting any thing like a substantial and comfortable house with mud alone. Yet, even here in Lower Egypt, where, as we have already seen, the rain does not spare them much at certain seasons of the year, the Arabs contrive to dare the storm and tempest in their houses erected of this humble and easily-dissolved material. In Upper Egypt, where it seldom or never rains, houses made from the mud of the Nile, if properly taken care of, will last for many generations. In fact, in many villages in the upper country, along the banks of the Nile, no other composition enters into the walls of any of their buildings. They also build the walls of their towns of the same unburnt mud of the Nile. And I recollect seeing the high and thick walls of some of the ancient towns of Upper Egypt, which are supposed to be thousands of years old, built of the same material, and now stand in a very good state of preservation.

As we passed by these women, and drove along moderately, we soon came to a large gathering of half-naked people of all sexes, shapes, and colours, who were standing around a poor woman, with her hands tied behind her, and looking on very indifferently, while a large, ugly Arab was whipping her with a corbash in the most cruel and unfeeling manner. We supposed that this woman was a criminal, suffering the penalty of some offence, and that the man who had tied her up, and was then laying on the whip so lustily over her back and shoulders, was the proper officer, appointed by the Pacha to perform this disagreeable duty upon his subjects who may occasionally commit certain heinous crimes against his decrees. Judge of our astonishment, when, upon inquiring into the occasion of this public whipping, we were told by one of the bystanders, that "it was only a man whipping his wife!" which was a mere matter of every-day occurrence. I expressed my surprise to Mrs. Firkins at a state of things so revolting to humanity, and told her I had not supposed it possible that such abominable outrages and cruelties on the part of a man toward his wife could be tolerated in any country.

"Why," said Mrs. Firkins, "nothing is more common in Egypt than for a man to whip his wife. I inquired of one of my neighbours, the other day, how his wife did. 'O,' says he, 'she is very well, very well indeed: I gave her a sound drubbing a few days ago, and she has been very good ever since.'"

Mrs. F. continued: "The Egyptians must be

whipped pretty often, or there is no getting on with them at all. When the corbush is used freely, there is no difficulty, and they go on famously."

"Indeed!"

"Yes," replied Mrs. Firkins, "and they expect to be whipped—and are not satisfied unless they get well dressed down, once or twice, and sometimes oftener, each month. And servants, who do not get whipped occasionally, think that they do not give satisfaction, and that their masters are displeased with them."

"Curious idea, certainly," said I.

"Yes, it may appear so to you, perhaps, as you have just come into Egypt; but, upon my word," said she, "no longer ago than last evening, Mr. Sneezebiter said to me that his old servant Ali came to him the day before, and said he wanted to go away. 'Why,' says Mr. Sneezebiter, 'what in the world do you want to go away for? You have very little to do, except to feed the serpents and water the lizards. I'm sure you cannot be so well off any where else.'—'Why,' says Ali, 'I don't give satisfaction, and I can't bear to live at a place where this is not the case.'—'Satisfaction!' said Mr. Sneezebiter, 'I'm perfectly satisfied with you. How did you get a notion into your head that I was dissatisfied with you?'—'Why,' says Ali, 'you have never whipped me, and I supposed you were displeased with me, of course.'"

Whipping appeared to us to be a strange way of expressing one's approbation of the faithful labours of

a good old servant ; but I have learned, from other sources than Mrs. Firkins, that many Europeans who go into Egypt think the better way is to make an impression at once ; and that entitles them to obedience and respect on the part of the people ever afterward. Such, as I was informed, was the advice of the American consul to a clergyman from the United States, who, after completing his arrangements to ascend the Nile, asked the consul what was the best mode to adopt for the management of the sailors of his boat ?

“ Why,” says the consul, “ the better way is, to pick a quarrel with them the first or second day out, and whip all hands. That will establish your authority over the crew, and ensure a prosperous and an agreeable voyage.”

But let us drive on to the catacombs and baths of the beautiful Queen of Egypt. The dogs, women, etc. have detained us too long by the way.

The catacombs are about three miles from the centre of the city, and quite out of the modern town of Alexandria, near the seashore. Still, in the whole distance of the drive, we were passing over the scattered remains of the ancient city, which extend far beyond, in all directions. It is not known, at the present day, where the original entrance to these catacombs was ; nor is it scarcely possible to form a conjecture, with any degree of certainty, in regard to their extent. They are cut in the solid rock, but so choked up with sand and other rubbish that the main entrance has long since been lost sight of, and

many of the chambers are quite inaccessible. We entered, with our torches, by a low, dark passage, broken in, on the side next the sea. The passage was so cramped and low, that it was scarcely possible to effect an entrance even on one's hands and knees.

After groping our way in that manner for the distance of some hundreds of feet, we came into a temple, in the Grecian style of architecture, of large dimensions. The principal hall of the temple had a concave roof, handsomely chiselled; and it opened out, on three sides, into smaller chambers, finished and roofed in the same manner as that of the principal room of the temple, and having in each, on three of their sides, handsome alcoves, or recesses for sarcophagi. The whole plan, arrangement, and finish of the principal hall of the temple and the adjoining chambers were neat, pleasing, and effective. The bottom, however, of these subterraneous halls is so filled up with sand and rubbish, that they could not have appeared in any thing like their pristine elegance and grandeur.

There were numerous other chambers opening in various directions along the passages, but they were all choked with rubbish nearly to their roofs; so that we found an attempt to explore them quite useless. On coming out of these subterraneous temples of worship and sepulture, for which purposes they were no doubt originally constructed, we walked down to the sea-shore, to look into what are now called the "baths of Cleopatra." These are small

chambers, cut in the solid rock, like the rooms in the catacombs, but so broken down that the sea now rushes into them, and dashes about at will. Some of them, however, are in a state of considerable preservation; though they are all small, and have no appearance of ever having been constructed with much elegance or taste. In these baths the beautiful queen, whose personal charms fascinated and turned the heads of some of the greatest and mightiest men of her time, may have bathed her enamelled limbs; although of that fact, in these skeptical and degenerate days, many doubts have been expressed.



A FEMALE ENTERING A BATH.

CHAPTER VII.

Incidental Story of Nebby Daood, an eccentric Backwoodsman of the United States, travelling in Egypt. — His Reserve, and his Impressions of Mankind. — The Object of Nebby's Wanderings. — His Desire for Foreign Travel. — Scenes of his Youth. — Nebby's Passion for Books and Thirst for Knowledge. — "Town Library Association." — Difficulties encountered, and final Success. — Leaves his Father's House and goes to New York. — Journey, and Arrival in the City. — Nebby's Impressions. — Desolation of his Feelings. — Nebby among the Speculators of Wall-street. — Halts between two Opinions. — Slips through the Fingers of the Speculators, with the Loss of their Friendship. — Nebby's Ignorance of the World. — Meets with a Disaster and breaks his Leg. — His Recovery, and Departure for England.

PRECISELY as we had supposed, Nebby was punctual to the time, and ready for dinner the moment it was announced. Indeed, he had anticipated our arrival by a few moments, and had been waiting our return to the hotel. This we construed, on the part of Nebby, into a piece of true politeness and good-breeding; though I am aware how much at variance it is with the etiquette observed by some sprigs of fashionable society, by whom it would be considered a breach of politeness, if not, in fact, an act of downright vulgarity, to keep one's promises under any circumstances.

We were in hopes to have the pleasure of the company of Mr. and Mrs. Firkins also; but an engagement on that day with the Wrinklebottoms, where they were to meet Mr. Sneezebiter and a large party of English ladies and gentlemen, just arrived in Alexandria by the overland conveyance from India—deprived us of that honour.

As it was, our party was small, but very select, comprising only our good friend the doctor, Nebby Daood, Mrs. C. and myself.

Dinner being announced, Nebby laid away his beaver, and handed Mrs. C. down to dinner—if not in the most courtly, certainly in a pleasing and acceptable manner.

We took seats at table, and the time passed quietly away with the soup and the first courses.

Nebby was reserved at first, and only replied to inquiries, and then in general terms. He was respectful, however, and appeared more inclined to feel his way along than to dash off obtrusively into conversation, before ascertaining what kind of ground he stood upon, and whether he was actually among friends, who were capable of fairly appreciating him and his peculiarities, or more doubtful characters, who had invited him to dinner merely for their own amusement. Nebby had sense enough to discern that the world paid him no respect on account of rich relations, his own wealth, titles, good looks, or fine clothes. These shining qualifications, too, Nebby knew, were quite sufficient, frequently, to introduce the merest popinjays into what is termed by the fash-

ionable world the highest circles; although the individuals thus honoured, deprived of their tinsel and exterior circumstances, might be little better than "sounding brass and tinkling cymbals." Therefore, he had very justly concluded that most people, in their attentions to him, could only be actuated by one of two motives—either a desire to enjoy his little stock of backwoods common-sense kind of conversation, or to deride him. Nebby had found, in his distant wanderings, the latter motive too frequently the spark that had kindled up new acquaintances, to trust himself, unreservedly, in the hands of strangers. He was poor and badly clad, he knew; nor had he any pretensions to genteel manners, or fascinating conversational qualities.

Nebby was a man of sentiment and feeling; and the object of his wanderings in this apparently out-cast and vagabond kind of manner, was no mean purpose, but rather to build up and sustain the true dignity of man. It was no other than an honest thirst after intelligence; a desire to see the world, and study the whimsical and fitful fabric of human nature. Nebby had already wandered over some of the fairest portions of the globe; admiring the beauties of nature, and rejoicing in the goodness, and transcendent glory and power of the Creator. But his heart had often been saddened and crushed by the conduct of those whom chance had thrown in his way. He could no longer contemplate the character of the generality of mankind but with a sor-

rowful heart, a subdued spirit, and a deep conviction that there is more real satisfaction in communing with the wild, untamed glories of the Creator's hands, in his own native wilderness, or among the silent and sublime cliffs of Alpine mountains, than in the fine-spun, cold associations of men, with all their refinement, all their pomp, all their deceit, and all their worthlessness.

In the great works of nature, there was a truthfulness and a reality so congenial to the mind of Nebby, that they warmed his bosom, and often melted him into tears. But his intercourse with his fellow-man had almost sealed the tender springs of his heart, and shod his soul with iron. He looked upon man as a lie—a cheat—a thing born to dazzle and deceive—a shining basilisk, glistening in the barren sands of the wilderness of human existence but to lure and to destroy.

That there were exceptions to be made to a sentence of such severity, Nebby acknowledged, and he well knew how to make them, and he appreciated their value with a heart overwhelmed with gratitude. But those green spots in the wretched waste of man's wickedness, Nebby had found to be few, and separated by long and weary distances. Yet when, in the course of his wanderings, he had reached them, he knelt down, praised God, and clasped the inestimable blessings to his heart with all the thankfulness, all the enthusiastic joy of soul, with which a thirsty, weary pilgrim kneels before a gushing fountain springing up in the midst of a wide and desolate wilderness.

Nebby was no ungrateful creature. A kindness done him did not fail to make an impression upon his mind, which was "wax to receive, but marble to retain."

He spoke of the kindness that he had received at the hands of the American Consul at Malta, and several other individuals that he had fallen in with, and by whom he had been aided, in different parts of Europe, with a tenderness and feeling honourable to human nature. He could not mention their names, nor think of their attentions to him, a stranger, and friendless as he was, and, as many would be inclined to say, vagabond and wandering outcast in a strange and distant part of the world, but with deep emotion. He was not one to trifle with and deride. He had formed his own estimate of man, and weighed his actions as in a balance. The good he treasured as jewels beyond price; but the bad, the selfish, and the sensual, he trampled under foot with scorn and contempt.

Such may be considered an outline sketch of Nebby Daood, his sentiments and feelings, at the time we had the pleasure of meeting this unfortunate but worthy American backwoodsman in Egypt. Our acquaintance was brief, but I was in hopes to renew it in our own country, and here to nurse and warm it into a permanent friendship. Alas! it was soon broken for ever. As I have before remarked, Nebby was at first reserved, and not much inclined to talk. I frequently replenished his plate and renewed his glass, and otherwise exerted my-

self to soften his feelings and bring him down upon confidential ground, in hopes to hear from his own lips, and in his own peculiar style of expression and dialect, his personal history, or some part of it at least. In this, I am gratified in being able to say, I succeeded; although to give any thing like a true and faithful account of his conversation, and the impressive effect which it made upon us at the time, would be quite impossible.

The story of Nebby, and his manner of relating it, were like a thousand other phenomena and deeply interesting things, that can neither be imagined nor adequately described. They must be witnessed, to be known; and studied, to be properly appreciated.

“You perceive,” at length said Nebby, “I dare say, that I am dining very heartily; but the truth is, I seldom have an opportunity of dining in this manner.”

I told him that I was glad to see him eat heartily, and hoped he would have no delicacy in satisfying his appetite with whatever there was upon the table; and if there was any thing else not there, that he wished to have, it would give me pleasure to order it for him at once.

Nebby thanked me, and continued: “I do not pretend to travel like a gentleman—my means will not permit me to do so; and, since I left my father’s fireside, in the backwoods of America, I have often known what it is to want food and raiment. But I had a desire, nay, a restless passion to see something of the world, and to become ac-

quainted with mankind a little more than my prescribed circle in the West would allow; and that impulse has led me on, from country to country, and from year to year, until, at last, I have reached this distant part of the world, in the state in which you now see me. But how I came here, I can hardly tell you. It seems like a mystery; and how, or when, if *ever* I shall return to my own native wilds, it is impossible for me to determine. Providence has opened one door after another before me, and often cheered my way when gloom and sorrow hung around me. Therefore I am now full of courage, and hope in the course of another year to reach home, and receive the blessing of my aged parents, ere they sink into their graves. Dear, tender, disinterested, unbought friends! How they did try to detain me at home, and to dissuade me from this wild notion of visiting distant, foreign lands! But it was all fruitless. A restless spirit for roving possessed me, and I could neither rest day nor night, until I had fairly set out upon this favourite, and, as my friends and neighbours often termed it, wild, hair-brained, disastrous career.

“I was born in the interior of the State of Ohio, in the secluded wilderness of the West, away from the jarring, dazzling, deceitful contact of man, as seen in what is called his high state of civilization, and fashionable, moral refinement. I knew nothing of the world for many years; and lived on, with my parents and friends, in a state of primeval bliss. All our neighbours, though few and thinly scattered

among the tall forest-trees for a great distance, were our *friends*—not ‘after the fashion that the world puts on,’ in *name* only—but in deed, feeling, and sentiment, our near and dear friends. Our joys and sorrows were shared together. Often we startled the wild beasts of the wilderness from their fastnesses—hurled the ponderous buffalo and the vaulting deer at our feet, and bore them upon our shoulders joyously to our woodland-homes. Often we joined a willing and an active hand with the weak, in the erection of their rude cabin of logs, or in clearing the new-burn field of its rubbish, preparatory to the reception of the seed for the first crop. Those were pleasing and willing duties, in which all our happy little community joined with light hearts and spirits of cheerfulness—indicative of the warmest friendship and the purest devotion to the best interests and welfare of all.

“The rapid march of improvement in the West brought among us new emigrants, new notions, new books, new manners, new customs, and new regulations. In short, a few brief years opened the wilderness around us—let in the great world—and all was changed!

“I had, it is true, learned to read; my mother had taught me to read the Bible when I was quite a child; and I used to pore over the historical parts of that holy book with an intensity of feeling of which I can give you no conception. The Bible, a library of itself, and worth all other, nay, more than all other books, was the only one we had. I had read it un-

til I could almost repeat it from memory, chapter by chapter, verse by verse, and precept by precept, from the beginning to the end.

“I had a strong desire to read other books, but had no way of procuring them except through the kindness of our new neighbours, of whom I occasionally borrowed one; which, when I had read it, always left me with a stronger desire for more, such was my thirst for the fountains of knowledge.

“At last I collected a few of the young men of our neighbourhood together, and told them that I had been thinking for some time that it would be an excellent thing for us all, if we could by any means raise a small sum, to lay out in books at once, to be used with equal freedom by all; and to replenish the collection from time to time as we could, by a trifling monthly contribution for that purpose. Some of them had no taste for books, and cared so little about any thing else but the wild, uproarious sports of the West, that they derided me and my plan. A majority of them at the time thought differently, and fell in with my proposition at once. I then drew up a kind of constitution of the society that we had formed, which I dignified with the name of the ‘Town Library Association.’ We all signed the constitution — chose officers, and adjourned, with an agreement to come together again in a few days, and deposite with the treasurer what money we could collect, to be forwarded to New York, to be expended in books.

“When the appointed day of our meeting came round, but few of the members of the ‘Town Li-

brary Association' made their appearance ; and those who were assembled, said they found it almost impossible to raise any money—spoke of the enterprise in the most discouraging manner—and finally proposed to dissolve the 'Town Library Association,' and abandon the project of letters altogether.

"I had been elevated to the exalted station of president of the 'Town Library Association,' at the first meeting, by a unanimous vote ; and, upon this proposition, being made, I rose from the chair, which was a block of wood, and addressed the members present to the following effect : I told them that I was poor, poor enough, as they all very well knew ; but that, poor as I was, I rejoiced that I had one dollar in the world that I could call my own ; though I deeply regretted that that *one dollar* was all the money in my treasury,—nor did I know where or when I should find another. But as small a sum as that might be, and as feeble as I might find myself if deserted by the other members of the 'Town Library Association,' I told them that I had determined to send that one dollar to the city of New York by the first opportunity, to purchase books. I knew it could not buy many, but whatever it did purchase, should be deposited in the place provided in the constitution ; and they should be called the books of the 'Town Library Association,' free for the use of *all* its members.

"This had the desired effect. The members present kindled into a feeling of enthusiasm—promised to make further exertions toward raising funds, and

the meeting was adjourned to the next week, when we again came together, and collected six or seven dollars, which we sent off in a few days by a merchant who was going to New York, with the request that he would purchase as many books as he could with the money.

"When he returned, he brought us some fifteen or eighteen volumes; and when those books were received into the shelves of the 'Town Library Association,' it was the happiest hour of my life. It was a sort of literary triumph over the unlettered apathy and prejudice of ignorance, which rejoiced my soul, and my spirit was exceedingly glad.

"The foundation-stone was laid—a commencement had been made for the 'Town Library Association,' and I was sure it would prosper. Nor was I disappointed in my expectation; for we went on adding new books from time to time, as fast as we could collect a few dollars together, until we found ourselves in possession of a very respectable library.

"A taste for reading sprang up in the neighbourhood; and all became improved, and deeply interested in the success and prosperity of the 'Town Library Association.'

"I read the books as fast as they came to hand, and was very fond of those that gave an account of distant countries. Finally, I resolved to set out for Europe, as soon as I could possibly collect a sufficiently large sum to defray my expenses across the Atlantic. This sum, good health, industry, and the general prosperity of the country, threw into my

possession, and even more; for, when I bade adieu to my parents and home, I had nearly five hundred dollars.

“It was in the depth of winter when I left my native wilds. However, I swung my pack, bade farewell to my friends, whom I left in much sorrow, and engaged to accompany a drover, who was just setting out with his cattle for the State of New York. I was to assist him on the way until we arrived at the place of his destination, and was to receive fifty cents a day for my services. That was a hard bargain.

“The weather was bitter cold, and I was half-leg deep in the snow a great part of the distance from Ohio to the State of New York. More than once I wished myself fairly back again among my friends. But I could not return to them so soon, without becoming the subject of derision to the whole neighbourhood. Besides, when I got rid of the drover and his troublesome herd of cattle, my desire to visit foreign lands again revived, and became more imperious than ever. I was driven forward, as it were, by the hand of destiny; and reached the city of New York in process of time, on foot, but in safety, and in perfect health.

“The magnitude of the place, the fine buildings, the bustle and hum of business, the ‘multitudinous seas of people’ hurrying through the streets—all had a new and singular effect upon my mind. It produced an impression that I shall never forget.

“I knew no one in the city of New York; and,

for the first time in my life, I felt the withering desolation of my condition, and that I was really a stranger and wandering pilgrim upon the earth.

“Every thing was new and strange to me; and I was heart-sick and melancholy at the rude and cold manner in which the people rushed by me and each other; and I was soon convinced that every one was so absorbed in himself and his own private affairs, as to have little or no sympathy or feeling for any one else. There I took my first lesson in the world’s cold and heartless exclusiveness.

“After a few days’ residence in the city, I began myself to grow more indifferent with regard to other people. I found that it was the way of the world for every one to rely upon his own resources, and to take care of himself.

“I was then richer than I had ever been before—having in my possession, after pocketing the amount of my services with the drover, something over five hundred dollars.

“I fell in with several new acquaintances, and all of them, believing that I had some money, advised me to lay it out in land, and set up the business of a speculator in real estate. They told me how soon and easy immense fortunes were realized in that line of business; and, by way of illustration, or rather confirmation of what they had told me, pointed out several burly, consequential individuals in Wall-street, who, they said, came from Boston and other places to New York but a few months before, bankrupts in fortune and character, and were then riding in their

carriages, living in splendid houses, giving elegant entertainments, and worth millions of dollars each. They further said, if I had the least doubt of what they told me, I had only to ask the gentlemen themselves about it, and they would confirm all that my new friends had stated, and more too. Besides, they added, those men are gentlemen of the most undoubted veracity, whose words are just as good as their notes of hand.

“My new friends then exhibited a variety of nicely-coloured maps and plans of new towns, cities, and villages that had recently sprung up in all parts of the United States, in all of which there were more or less vacant lots, belonging to my new companions — a part of which, out of friendship, they proposed to sell me, for a small per centage in ready money, and a bond and mortgage on the property for the balance, to be paid many years afterward.

“This account of theirs, so glowing with the prospect of sudden riches, beyond the possibility of doubt, I must confess, appeared very tempting, and at first staggered me considerably; and when I seemed to halt between two opinions, quite undecided what I would do, abandon my wandering notions of travel and turn land-speculator in New York, or persist in my perigrinations, they came to the charge again with renewed energy — fired off the same batteries a second time, but more heavily charged than at first. They exhibited more maps and plans, and immense piles of finely-engraved scrip of the stock of ‘land companies,’ — ‘quarrying companies,’ — ‘lumber compa-

nies,' — 'companies' for the manufacture of barrel-staves, — 'steam companies,' — patent-rights of grist-mills, water-wheels, shingle-saws, spinning-jennies, cutting-machines, and the deuce knows what all. I became confounded and almost bewildered by their papers and their eloquence; but at last I made up my mind that I would have nothing to do with the matter. I excused myself as well as I could, and told them that I knew nothing whatever about business, and had rather not embark in such gigantic operations. They saw that I was decided; and, although they had acted in a very friendly manner up to that time, they now seemed to be displeased, and never would have a word to say to me upon that or any other subject afterward. I hardly knew what to make of such conduct; for, by their own showing, I had committed no offence, but to refuse their lands and stocks at a price greatly below their current and intrinsic value.

"I thought I had a great deal yet to learn before I should be able fully to comprehend the strange ways of the world. I walked down to the wharves to see if there were any vessels about to sail for any part of Europe. The first vessel that I came to was just on the point of sailing for Liverpool. I went on board, and was looking about the ship a little, making inquiries with regard to the price of passage, etc., when, in stepping back a few feet to allow one of the sailors to pass me with a water-cask, I pitched down the hatchway into the hold of the vessel,

broke one leg, bruised my head, and seriously injured myself in other respects.

“ This was a dreadful blow to my future prospects. The alarm was given, and I was fished up out of the hold in a state more dead than alive. Some restoratives from the medicine-chest revived me, so that I was enabled to inform the captain who I was, and where I came from. I requested him to have me conveyed to my lodgings, where my landlady received me, mangled and broken to pieces as I was, in a kind manner.

“ The bone of my leg, on examination, was found to be badly shattered, but it was well put together; and after three months' suffering I was again enabled to crawl along the streets with the aid of a crutch.

“ My money had suffered a wonderful diminution during the process of curing my leg, and my health was far from being as sound and robust as it had been previously. However, feeble as I was in body, and slender as might appear my pecuniary circumstances, I was stout in mind, and firmly resolved not to abandon my favourite project of visiting foreign countries. As soon as I recovered sufficient strength, I hobbled down again to the wharf on my crutches. I took a steerage passage on board one of the Liverpool packets, and went over to England, without accident or the occurrence of any thing remarkable on the voyage.”

CHAPTER VIII.

Story of Nebby Daood continued. — Nebby in England. — His Visits to Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and London. — His first Impressions of the British Metropolis, and his Manner of getting into the House of Parliament. — His Visit to Westminster Abbey. — His Reception at the Mansion of a Distinguished American in London. — His Opinion of the two Houses of Parliament. — His Visit to France, and Wanderings to Switzerland. — His Journey across the Alps into Italy. — His Visit to Genoa, Venice, Florence, Rome, Naples, and the long-buried Cities of the Plains. — His Reflections among the Ruins of Pæstum. — His Visit to Sicily; and Voyage to Greece.

“AFTER the first few days out of New York, my health much improved, and I gained strength daily, until the voyage was accomplished, when I threw my crutch overboard, and went on shore as light-hearted as any man on board ship.

“After looking about the city of Liverpool, I set out on a tour through the north of England, visiting all the large towns *en route*; and went up into the highlands of Scotland; lingered on the borders of the lakes and rivers of old Scotia; looked down into the winding glens and beautiful scenery from her highest mountains; knelt before the grassless grave of Scott; visited the birthplace of Robert Burns; wandered

among the scenes of his early career, and wept over his tomb. I then crossed to Ireland; passed down through that country, visiting all the most interesting localities and surveying the finest scenery; came over to Wales, and at length reached London, in perfect health, by a circuitous route through the south part of the country.

“London presented an entirely new picture to my view—contrasted with which, all other cities seemed to sink into comparative insignificance.

“I wandered about London day after day, without being able to understand it at all. I visited the Tower, Saint Paul’s, and Westminster Abbey, which last place was the most interesting spot that I saw in that strange, overgrown, world of a city.

“At Westminster Abbey, I found myself among the monuments and tombs of all those estimable men whose works I had read with so much pleasure and profit, and so much admired, before I left home. There, I passed some of the happiest moments of my existence; nor could I restrain the tears that trickled down my cheeks, and fell in among the tombs of those master spirits. This pleasure, thought I at the time, is among the fruits that I have already reaped from the ‘Town Library Association.’

“While in London, I was anxious to visit the house of Parliament, which was then in session; and, on making application for admission at the door, I was turned out of the lobby by a lubberly fellow, who told me not to be seen lurking about the premises again; if I did, he would hand me over to the

police! I was thunderstruck at this, and learned, for the first time, that a card of admission was necessary; and that, too, from a member of Parliament. I knew nobody in either house, of course, nor indeed did I know any one in London. I was as lonely there as one could well be. Still, I thought I must get into the house of Parliament somehow or other.

“At last, I thought I would call upon a distinguished citizen of the United States, resident in London at the time, in hopes, through his kindness toward an unfriended fellow-countryman, to obtain admission to the house. But my reception, at the elegant mansion of this distinguished American citizen, was sufficiently cold and formal to indicate that he did not expect me to do myself the honour of calling again; and that he did not care to have much to do with such a republican-looking chap as I appeared in his eyes to be. My reception had been so cheerless, that I did not think it worth while to endeavour to enlist him in my scheme of getting into Parliament; and when I came out through the hall, his servants, in livery and powdered hair, put their fingers to their noses, and looked very sagaciously in each other’s faces. Said I to myself, I will get into the house of Parliament somehow or other; and I will be under no obligation to this popinjay, slipshod American nobleman either.

“I succeeded in finding out the residences of several of the members of both houses, and went from one to the other, to ascertain if I could not procure admission to see some of them, and obtain, through

their influence, admission into the house of Parliament. Generally, where I called, the servants would say that my 'Lord Q.' or 'Duke O.' 'were not at home;' and then shut the door in my face, without waiting to hear a word further.

"I was nevertheless determined in my purpose, and followed up these visits of ceremony among the English noblemen, day after day, until at last I came to the splendid mansion of the Duke of B——. I rung at the door, and a good-natured servant opened it and demanded what I wanted. I thought when I first saw him, that he was my man, and that if I did not succeed with him, I might as well give up all idea of getting into the house at all. I told him I wanted to see his grace the Duke of B——. The servant surveyed my clothes, and looked me rather minutely in the face. He replied that his grace was then very much engaged, and would not be able to see me. 'But,' said he, 'what do you want of the Duke?'

"'Why,' said I, 'the truth is, I am a stranger in London from the United States of America. I know no one here, but I have a great curiosity to visit the house of Parliament, which I cannot do without a member's ticket of admission; at least so I have been informed; and I have taken the liberty of calling here to ascertain whether his grace the Duke of B—— would not have the kindness to grant me that privilege.' — 'Really,' said the obliging servant, 'I am not quite certain of that, but if you will be kind enough to call here about this time to-morrow, I will take occasion to mention your case to his grace the first moment

that I find him at leisure, and will then give you an answer.' I thanked the good fellow, and returned to my lodgings. Good, thought I, as I wandered along through the streets; I have at last got my foot upon the threshold of the house of Parliament, and my hand hold of the latch; I think I shall now get inside of the walls. The next day, at the appointed hour, I again presented myself at the door of the Duke's residence, and was met by the same servant, who smiled, and said that 'he was happy in being able to say that he had succeeded with his grace, without the least difficulty;' and handed me tickets of admission to both houses of Parliament. This was a great gratification to me, but the tickets scarcely pleased me so much, as did the manner in which they were delivered. For, this servant seemed to be really more gratified to think that he had obtained them, than I was myself. His kindness touched my feelings. It was almost the only instance that any one had exhibited the least interest for me since my arrival in London. He seemed to comprehend me and my motive, in making the request through him of the obliging Duke, and entered into it with all the warmth and interest of a friend. I took his hand on parting, and thanked him over and over again; and we were both so much affected that we were scarcely able to articulate a word.

" 'Well,' said I, as I hurried along toward the House of Lords, 'this world is not all made of rocks, stones, thorns, and thistles; there are some souls of men in it, even where we do not look for

them. It is not by the exterior surface of the earth that one can judge of the quality, richness, and depth of the mine; or whether, in fact, there may not be beneath a green turf, embellished with flowers, cold springs of bitter waters, trickling churlishly among gravel, brimstone, and mire; while the pure and crystal brook is often seen bursting out of the bosom of the rocky and uncouth hillside, leaping over the rugged cliffs, and spreading a cheerful and fertilizing beauty far into the lowly vale.'

"I mused along in this manner, until I reached the House of Lords, where, after some little scrutiny and hesitation on the part of the door-keeper, I was permitted to enter.

"I saw nothing there to astonish me. Those lords, said I to myself, are merely men, after all; and not the best specimen of the species that I have seen, either. Some of them are more indebted to their decorations, titles, and wealth, than to nature, for the elevated positions they occupy. The lords were lounging about, upon the great long seats, like a dissipated gathering of high fellows just in from a shooting party or a midnight debauch. They were sitting with their hats on, apparently careless about business, and seemed to have assembled merely to talk over the incidents of the last carousal, and to plan another with a view of winding up with cigars and something to drink. Few seemed to pay the least attention to what was before the house; indeed, there appeared to be little before it, of any kind, except a cadaverous little old man, dressed in a black

gown, and half enveloped in a large powdered wig; and he was squeaking away at the top of his voice, seated on a wool-sack but without being able to make himself understood at a distance of ten feet from the place where he sat. He was the presiding genius of the House of Lords.

“I soon became fatigued with that kind of lion, and went down to the House of Commons, which I found ‘ditto to Mr. Burke.’

“Thinks I, as I walked away from the Parliament House toward my humble lodging, ‘this business is hardly worth the candle; but my curiosity is satisfied, and that is a point gained.—I have also been among the lords, but the atmosphere does not seem to be of the most celestial odour: still it was worth seeing, if for nothing else but to ascertain how insipid and insignificant it really was.’

“I went once more to Westminster Abbey, and, having entirely satisfied my curiosity respecting England, I left the country. I crossed to France; visited Paris, which is all that one can see in that kingdom worth spending any time about. I afterwards went to Switzerland, and wandered among the sublime Alpine scenery, and held sweet communion with the silent rocks, the snowy cliffs, and the rugged glaciers of those hoary mountains.

“I knew neither the language of the country nor the men that inhabit it; but I was in the arms and upon the very bosom of nature’s glorious works. These were intelligible to me—themes of truth and instruction, which I delighted to revel in and study.

“Switzerland! How beautifully the poet has spoken of it! Here is a true picture:

“It is the land of beauty and of grandeur,
 Where looks the cottage out on a domain
 The palace cannot boast of. Seas of lakes,
 And hills of forests! Crystal waves, that rise
 'Mid mountains all of snow, and mock the sun,
 Returning him his flaming beams more thick
 And radiant than he sent them. Torrents there,
 Are bounding floods! and there the tempest roams
 At large, in all the terrors of its glory!
 And then our valleys! Ah, they are the homes
 For hearts! Our cottages, our vineyards, orchards,—
 Our pastures, studded with the herd and fold!
 Our native strains, that melt us as we sing them!
 A *free*, a gentle, simple, honest people!”

“Coming down from the frozen cliffs of the free mountains of Switzerland, I entered upon the great military road of Napoleon, and crossed Mount Cenis, not far from the spot over which the intrepid Hannibal led his veteran army to the plains of Italy. In this fine road, over those fearful heights, leaping from cliff to cliff, piercing the solid rock, grasping the flinty sides of cheerless mountains; then descending by a spiral route, though easily, into an awful and almost fathomless abyss, overhung with mountains of rock, and glaciers of ice and snow; winding itself out gracefully, at last, to the sunny plains—the daring, bold, and transcendent genius of Napoleon displays itself, scarcely less gloriously than in his most brilliant and consummate victories over the contending armies of Europe.

“At Turin, I passed a day in looking at the sights of the town, of which the fine collection of Egyptian

antiquities pleased me most. I had already seen the Egyptian relics in the Louvre and the British Museum, and had a strong desire to visit this strange land. But what I saw in the Egyptian Museum, at Turin, fully resolved me in my determination to come here; and I at once incorporated it among my plans of travel, to make the tour of Egypt. I then saw no door open by which I could accomplish it.

“On my way down to Genoa, I passed over the battle-field of Marengo; and there, for some time, silent and alone, I lingered, where so many brave men had fallen, and poured out their blood like water into the crimson river, that has more than once inundated that memorable plain.

“I entered on foot the ‘City of Palaces’ — Genoa, the birthplace of Columbus. The first place I inquired for was the house in which the bold and intrepid mariner was born. A spot was pointed out to me, said to be the place of his nativity. But of this there seems to be no certainty; since the little fishing-town of Cogoleto, on the seashore, toward Nice, also claims the honour of having given birth to the great navigator.

“I wandered over the town, admiring the beauties of the rich treasures of architecture which it contains; entered the splendid palaces, looked into the ‘golden room,’ and feasted my eyes upon the gems of art there so profusely displayed; contemplated the ‘*Sacro Catino*,’ deposited in the cathedral; a green dish, said to be an emerald, and the largest in the world. History and tradition say, that this celebrated ‘*Sacro*

Catino' was brought from the Holy Land by the crusaders; that it fell, at the close of the wars, to the Genoese; and that it was a present of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon; and was used by our Saviour on the night of the last supper.

“Of all that I saw in Genoa, I felt the most pleasure in lonely musing under the dilapidated walls of the once splendid palace of old Andrea Doria. Once it must have been a beautiful spot; indeed, silent and neglected as every thing is about it, even now it has a thousand attractions. Its green and flowery garden smiles upon the sea, and overlooks the deep blue billows, which roll up their huge swells, and dash themselves into spray on the shore.

“One cannot contemplate that old mansion and ruined garden without deep regret, and even sorrow, that the once cheerful residence of so noble and brave a man as Doria was, should thus be permitted to sink into ruin, while his descendants are rich and influential; and when, too, as all the world knows, the present Doria family is indebted for most if not all of its influence, power, and wealth, to the goodness and bravery of their great progenitor.

“The fine paintings, statuary, and other portable works of art that once adorned the palace of the old sailor, have long since been conveyed to Rome, to swell the princely collection of the Doria family, in their splendid palace in the ‘Eternal City.’

“Some of the descendants of the brave old admiral have filled the pontifical chair at Rome, and have added wealth and influence to the family; so that now

it is one of the most aristocratic, if not the richest family in all the Italian states.

“ In the contemplation of the pure, spotless, noble character of the old admiral, his descendants and all their dignity sink into silence and insignificance. He was brave, skilful, generous, patriotic, with a soul overflowing with goodness. He was faithful to his country and friends, but terrible and desolating to his enemies. At different times, he was the admiral of Charles V., of the Pope of Rome, and of his own country. He served them all faithfully, and with distinguished honour to himself. A single and unpretending individual, he raised himself into power by his own bravery and honest worth ; and at various periods was cherished, courted, praised, loved, feared, and hated by many of the kings and princes of Europe ; and in his own hand seemed to hold the destiny of the nations that he assailed, or of those with whom he attempted to grapple. Though his name was destined to be immortal, his soul dwelt in a fabric of clay, which, like that of other great men, crumbled at last, and mingled with its kindred dust.

“ I was in Venice, and pondered over the ‘dying glories’ of that modern Tyre. Alas ! the ‘golden city’ now weeps in ruins ! The gondolier no longer cheers the silence of the sombre canals with his song ; and the black gondolas themselves seem as if in the melancholy weeds of sorrow, for the departed glory and greatness of a fallen city.

“ I leaned against the column on which stands the ‘winged lion’ of St. Mark, once emblematical of

Venetian power. The flag-masts, from whose proud tops once floated the standards of Venetian dominion, now stripped and desolate, were but the silent monuments of a by-gone glory.

“I saw the spot where old Dondolo received the ducal crown, when the nations of the East trembled beneath his sway. The well-worn steeds, the spoils of many victories, once the ornament of Corinth, once of Paris, but snatched from the gates of Constantinople by the victorious hands of Dondolo, still stand upon the tribune of Saint Mark’s Cathedral, waiting the final dissolution and ruin of all around them.

“I admired the paintings, the statuary, the temples, the palaces, and the innumerable monuments of art that there abound, of a genius and a spirit that belong to a departed age.

“I entered the lofty halls of the Ducal Palace; I stood in the chamber of the ‘Council of Ten;’ passed through the hall of the ‘State Inquisition;’ crossed the ‘Bridge of Sighs,’ and went down into the deep, black prisons beneath. A thousand mad reflections filled my mind, as I there surveyed, by the light of a glimmering torch, the scene of so much agony, so many deaths, and so many tortures, as were inflicted upon poor human nature under the iron rule, and in the most glorious days of the republic. The place is still pointed out, where many a bosom struggled with the king of terrors in his most awful and appalling form. And the deep, blood-stained portal, through which the lifeless bodies of the victims were

thrust, is there also, though for humanity's sake it is now walled up; and, it is hoped, for ever.

“I mused in Aqua, beneath the simple tomb of Petrarch; and I plucked a flower from Dante's grave—from the grave of him who sleeps in the soil of exile, but for whom a later generation weeps, and whose ashes they would gladly gather to the bosom of his native land.

“Dante in Ravenna sleeps, and leaves to Florence his monument, unhonoured by his bones.

“Florence! how fair and lovely are thy bright hills and gentle slopes, hanging upon the silvery skirts of Arno's floods! It is a delicious spot in the warm bosom of nature: full of fascinations, fresh from the pure hand of Heaven! And yet what has not man done, in by-gone time, to enrich with embellishments what nature has so highly favoured! This, the cradle of European art, the ‘Athens of Italy,’ though but a shadow of its former glorious self, is still redolent of a thousand inestimable treasures of art, that exist nowhere else. But the glorious remains, the gems so much admired, the great and gorgeous temples, the rich and lofty palaces, and the cunning works of art, are the broken fragments of another age—a glorious age, that of a republic! Were not all her great men, too, or nearly all, of the same epoch?

“Florence, compared with her sister states in Italy, may smile and look happy; yet, contrasted with herself—with what she once was—she weeps and mourns, and ‘hangs her harp upon the willows.’

“I reposed my weary pilgrim-limbs at last in Rome — Rome ! once the centre of the world, through which its destiny vibrated, like the crimson gush of man’s existence in the human heart ! How fallen now !— how sad, how desolate, how weak, how ruined ! Yet, who can stand in the hallowed spot of Rome’s ancient power and grandeur, but with silent awe and wonder ! Rome is great and powerful still ; but the pasteboard show of marshalled monks and gilded priests adds nothing to her greatness, and augments not her grandeur. She is great in ruin !—great in the glorious achievements of another age. Her power and influence among the kingdoms and principalities of the world, have long since passed away ; and her sceptre has been broken. But still, all nations must and do go there, to bend before the altar of genius, and to pay a willing homage to her treasures of art. There are the deathless tints, the immortal touches of Michael Angelo’s gigantic hand ; there too are the divine and angelic impressions of Raphael ; there ——but why should I attempt an enumeration of a thousand names, consecrated to genius, and hallowed by antiquity, whose glorious works so richly adorn the Eternal City ! They are known to all, but not by all appreciated.

“I looked down from the brink of the deep crater’s mouth into the black and fiery bosom of Vesuvius, where the raging flames, old as time itself, have maddened into fury and awful storms of molten anger, burying fair cities deep beneath their glowing wrath ! What a scene ! I turned my eyes upon the fair blue waters, so sweetly spread at the base,

like the smooth surface of a burnished shield, flashing back the rays of the sun in all the glory that he sends them.

“It was a lovely day in spring, when the flowers were young and bursting into blossom, diffusing their perfumes over the gay, embellished, vine-clad hills. The bay of Naples then reposed in beauty; there was no breeze to curl its surface, and the warm sun smiled gently upon it. O! how bright the prospect over its blue expanse! The city, too, was glorious in the thin blue ethereal vapour, lightly tinging the swelling domes and lofty spires of sunny Naples.

“I came down from the mountain, and entered the buried cities of the plains. Pompeii and Herculaneum! once gay cities—long buried beneath the red crackling fires of the volcano’s wrath! How little do we know of those beings who once gayly trod the well-worn pavements of those silent streets! They have gone; and myriads before them, too, have stepped into the awful crater of eternity! And those cities have slept beneath the black cinders of Vesuvian fires for many centuries; and now they open their ponderous gates and sealed treasures to the world’s astonished gaze!

“I looked at the relics, gathered from those long-buried cities; and then thought I saw convincing proof that, in many things at least, the boasting world, that vaunts its ‘march of improvement,’ has not, after all, so much to be proud of on the score of civilization; or, indeed, of any very rapid strides in many works of art.

“I walked around the fair shores of Baiæ, once the seat of Roman luxury; now strewed with ruins! There emperors held their courts; and there the voice of Roman eloquence resounded. But there a haggard silence lingers now! Paul landed there, or at Puteoli, when he escaped from shipwreck, and went to Rome a prisoner.

“I hung over Virgil’s tomb, that looks out on the fair bay of Naples, to the blue hills of Capreæ where Tiberias dwelt in his splendid palace, an outcast to himself and to the world.

“In Pæstum, where disease and death have desolated all but the fresh ruins of her ancient temples, I mused in silence and alone! That was the very scene of a real desolation—a land of poisoned waters and haggard wo!—The plain of death! The stillness of the grave was there! I looked upon the temples, brown with the rust of thousands of years; while the warm hands that reared them, long ages past, mouldered in the dust.

“At Paestum Ulysses landed; Jason was once beneath the temples, and Hercules himself; all three, perhaps, have worshipped at the shrines of Posidonia’s gods, and burned incense on her crumbled altars. Calabrian hordes are now the only priests that kneel in adoration there!

“Sicily’s green shores I measured round, and with weary steps I scaled her highest mountains, which are crackling and burning with volcanic fires. I surveyed her shattered ruins; and then sailed to Greece.

CHAPTER IX.

Nebby Daood among the Ruins of Athens. — He visits Esculapius' Grove ; Argos, Mycenæ, Tyrrins, Corinth, the Nemean Plains, Mount Parnassus, Delphi, the Castalian Spring, the Waters of Lethe, the Plains of Marathon, the Straits of Thermopylæ, Thebes, Plataea, Ancient Crete, Egypt, and Syria. — His Disappearance, and probable Death !

“ I LANDED,” continued Nebby, “ on the Grecian shore, and walked to Athens ; where Paul, eighteen hundred years ago, waited for Silas and Timotheus, disputing daily in the market-place with the Jews and the Greek philosophers.

“ I went to Areopagus, and ascended Mars-hill, where Paul stood in the midst of the idolatrous Athenians, and boldly declared the name of the ‘ unknown God.’

“ I climbed the old Acropolis, and mused a while amidst the silent ruins of the Parthenon. As I looked upon the fair face of that glorious ruin, battered rudely by the hand of time and the spoiler, I thought I heard its well-earned anathemas on the British hand that robbed it of its ornaments. Byron, a noble bard, has damned that hand, that robber hand, to everlasting infamy : Elgin’s name — Lord

Elgin's shame, is 'founded as a rock;' it must go down to ages yet unborn.

"I passed the temple of the winds, and stood beside the lantern of Demosthenes. Thence I walked beneath the well-turned arch of Hadrian, and reached the ruins of the temple of Jupiter Olympus. That must have been a temple worthy of the gods. But of its hundred and twenty white marble columns, sixteen alone remain to tell the story of its pristine splendour.

"I loitered amidst the ruins of Theseus' temple, and seated myself upon the rock that overlooked the Ægean sea and Attica's fair vales and hills—the rock from which Demosthenes moved the nation with his lips.

"I left Attica's green and sunny vale, and crossed the sea; surveyed the temple on the Ægean island; went to the grove of Esculapius, and thence to the plains of Argos.

"I strolled beneath the walls of Tyrrins and old Mycenæ and entered Agamemnon's tomb; thence, by the plains of Nemæa, where Hercules slew the lion—the scene of the Nemæan games, and where are still the remains of the temple of the Nemæan Jupiter; I went to Corinth, where Paul made tents with Aquilla, and preached the gospel of Christ to the unbelieving Greeks and Jews.

"The ruins at old Corinth are now few and scattered. I walked upon the summit of the Acropolis, where once was Venus' temple. There I gazed on Athens in the distance, with her temples dimly seen.



VIEW OF CORINTH.

The narrow belt of soil that separates Lepanto from the Ægean sea, Corinth's isthmus, lay at my feet; and the smooth, mellow seas that kissed its shores, green with islands, spread out like liquid silver in the sun's broad glare. Attica's rugged hills were glorious to the view, as were the snow-clad tops of Helicon and old Parnassus. The Peloponnesian mountains rose in billowy grandeur, till the eye's dim vision rested on the clouds. Corinth and its fertile plain lay along Lepanto's shore. Around me were the hushed guns of nations long since dead. There they repose amidst the gloom of broken temples, mosques, and dwellings of a silent generation.

"I journeyed to Delphi, where Apollo's temple stood, and drank Castalian water at the crystal spring that gushes from Parnassus' bosom, and whose icy caps, with Alpine grandeur, mingle with the misty clouds of heaven. To these at last I mounted, and reached Parnassus' tops, where my locks were bathed in the dew of heaven. Then I wandered on to Lethe's springs, next to Plataea's ruins, and at length to Thebes. I have been in the narrow gap of Thermopylae, and crossed the plain of Marathon. I passed over Patmos' Island to ancient Troy.

"I have been in Crete, and in Ephesus. I have heard the Nile's cataract roar, and seen the Philæan temples. I have kissed the vocal Memnon on the Theban plain, and entered many of Pharaoh's tombs, or palaces, hewn in the solid rock. I have been beneath the sculptured roof of Dendera's fair tem-

ple; that of Edfu, Esneh, Ombo, Luxor, Thebes; and Karnack's wonders. I have seen them all; and placed my pilgrim feet upon the lofty pyramid of Libya's desert. I have seen the bruised sphinx at Ghizeh, and descended into the tombs of the mummied birds and sacred beasts of Egypt. I have been in Memphis, in Heliopolis, and at last a kind Providence has safely brought me here.

“I have still a little coin in my pocket, and only await the arrival of a Tuscan steamer, that is daily expected at Alexandria, with which I go to Syria; and, after making a tour through the Holy Land, I will return to Alexandria, and embark on board a vessel freighted with wild beasts, which will then be ready to sail for the United States. These wild animals, from the interior of Africa, are to be my companions on the voyage; and the service I am to render, in taking care of them, is considered an equivalent for my passage to New York.”

This was the tale of the wanderings of a poor, obscure, unknown, though worthy individual, from the backwoods of the United States. We were deeply interested with the simple manner in which he related it; and I now insert it here, to show the indomitable and persevering spirit of the Americans, who are often known to endure all kinds of sacrifices and privations, to accomplish a favourite project. Nebby was one who thirsted for knowledge, and he had a most distinct idea and comprehensive view of

all the important objects that he had seen throughout his long and perilous pilgrimage. His account of what he had witnessed, was graphic, artless, and strongly marked by that shrewdness, good sense, and penetration, which distinguished him. We have rarely met a more agreeable or a more amusing companion. We separated from him at a late hour, with unfeigned regret; not, however, without giving him letters of introduction to some respectable gentlemen in New York, who, I was in hopes, on his arrival in that city, would be able to render him some assistance. The last time we saw him, was on the morning of our departure for Cairo. He came down to the canal-boat, to bid us adieu, and did not quit it until it had fairly swung off; so that, in regaining the shore, he came near jumping into the canal.

A few days after we arrived in Cairo, I received a letter from Nebby, in which he informed me that the Tuscan steamer had arrived, and that he was just embarking for Syria. He also wrote me that he had been obliged to pay two dollars to a man from Denmark, for signing his passport. This Dane, in the absence of the American consul, then passing the winter in Upper Egypt, had been left in charge of the affairs of the American consulate at Alexandria, and to exact toll of all citizens of the United States who might come into or go out of Egypt.

This exaction, Nebby wrote, he thought a hardship; and he supposed that all was not right about it. I thought so too. And I thought it was not only not right for this Danish gentleman to rob this poor,

unfriended man of two dollars under the broad seal of the American consulate, but I had every reason to believe that he was sinning against knowledge. For, only three or four days before Nebby's two dollars were thus abstracted from his almost penniless pockets, an American gentleman, Mr. S——, from Boston, then in Alexandria, and about to sail for Greece, had occasion for the seal and signature of the American consulate on his passport, and called on the Danish gentleman, mentioned above, for that purpose. The Dane received him with great urbanity; signed his passport; and, on presenting it to Mr. S—— with a bended body and a flourish of the hand, told him that the fee for his *viza* was two dollars! Mr. S—— asked him if it was the usual custom to demand this sum for each signature of the American consulate at Alexandria, on *passports*? "Certainly," replied the Dane, "in all cases." Mr. S—— then requested the gentleman to allow him to look at the instructions of the State Department of the United States, for the regulation of American consulates abroad. He directed the Danish gentleman to a clause in said instructions, where the consuls are strictly enjoined *not to take any fees for signing passports of the citizens of the United States*. Whereupon the Danish subject aforesaid appeared to be much surprised; bowed, scraped, and apologized in a thousand ways, and in almost as many languages; said he felt under the highest obligations to Mr. S—— for kindly calling his attention to that prohibitory clause in the instructions of the Secretary

of State ; and that, in future, he would be strictly governed, in all similar cases, by those instructions ; and Mr. S—— might be most positively assured, that he would never demand any thing of the citizens of the United States for signing passports thereafter. But in the course of three or four days, at most, subsequently to these assurances, he again demanded and took two dollars of an American citizen for signing his passport ! And from whom ? Certainly not from a man to whom two dollars was of so little importance that he could afford to lavish it upon foreign agents of the American government, especially when such agents were strictly enjoined by the government at home not to receive it from *any citizen of the United States*. No ; it was from a poor and almost friendless, though worthy creature, wandering in a wild and barbarous part of the world, with little more, perhaps, than those two dollars, in his possession ; and with scarcely clothes sufficient to cover his worn and emaciated limbs.

Poor Nebby did not live to relate in his own country the injury he had received from this heartless Dane. He left Alexandria, took a deck passage on board the steamer, and landed at Beyrout in safety. From thence, after tarrying a day or two with the missionaries, he set out for Jerusalem. He intended to go on foot and alone, as was his custom in other countries ; but was dissuaded, at first, from a resolution so beset with danger as was that of wandering unarmed in this manner through a land infested with banditti. He mounted a mule, and started with a

single muleteer on his contemplated pilgrimage. In a few hours, to the surprise of all who knew any thing of the circumstances, the muleteer returned to Beyrout, saying that, after riding three or four miles from the town, Nebby had changed his mind, and resolved to walk. He therefore paid the muleteer, and sent him back. Poor Nebby, however, was never heard of, by any of his friends, from that hour to the present moment! He was doubtless met by some cowardly bandits, shot down, stripped of his patched and threadbare garments, robbed of his few last shillings, and his naked body then left a prey to vultures and eagles, or to bleach upon the cheerless mountains of Syria!



CHAPTER X.

Contemplated Visit to Upper Egypt. — Selim, the Arabian Dragoman. — His Qualifications, and a Description of his Person. — An Interview with the Consular Agent of the United States. — Flattering Expectations. — Important Standing of the Consul. — Ride and Reflections among the Tombs. — The Wrinklebottoms at Pompey's Pillar. — Scene in the Graveyard at Alexandria. — Valorous Exploits of the Dragoman with Beggars. — Admiration and Chagrin of the Wrinklebottoms. — Lord Sweepstakes and Sir Jeffrey Windfall. — Dinner on the Summit of Pompey's Pillar. — Affront to the Pacha. — Imagined Insult to the British Flag. — Virtuous Indignation of the Wrinklebottoms. — The Pacha's Decree.

HAVING resolved upon a visit to Upper Egypt, on the strongest recommendation of Mr. Firkins and his vicegerent, Mr. O'Statten, we engaged a person by the name of Selim to accompany us as dragoman, servant, companion, and *friend*. He was an Arab; and spoke with considerable fluency five different languages, though he could neither read nor write any one of them. This fellow turned out to be a great rascal. We found him lazy, malicious, disobedient, dirty, diseased, and dishonest. These were qualifications not calculated to render our travelling in Egypt the most pleasant thing in the world.

For two or three days, however, previously to our leaving Alexandria, Selim made quite an energetic and conspicuous display of himself. He was tolerably clean in his appearance, and seemed, on the whole, to promise pretty fairly for the future. But the doctor was not much pleased with his excessive vanity, or his cruelty to the donkey-boys, from the first; nor was the bad impression, made in the outset upon the doctor's mind, removed by Selim's subsequent conduct. This vain-glorious demonstration on the part of our new dragoman wore away as his clothes became soiled; and from a bustling, bullying, brutal, quarrelsome tyrant at home, he became a tatterdemalion abroad. Selim had on, when he came into our service, a pair of Armenian bag-breeches, red Turkish shoes, without stockings, a Grecian jacket, embroidered with gold lace, and a red Levantine cap, adorned with a long black silk tassel, hanging by its side. He was a tall, attenuated figure, and had a graceless stoop in the shoulders. His face was long and lantern-jawed, and his eyes and hair were black. He had a good set of teeth, a well-formed mouth; and a nose, though not altogether faultless, yet, when contrasted with his high cheek-bones and protruding chin, it looked like a divinely-chiselled thing from the hands of a Grecian sculptor.

The next morning after he entered into our service, he was at the hotel at an early hour, and had wound off six or eight regularly pitched battles with the donkey-boys, and some other harmless Egyptians, before we had got through with our breakfast.

This we attributed more to a desire on his part to impress us with a proper idea of his cleverness and important standing at home, than to any necessity that there might have been for inflicting such severe chastisement upon his fellow-townsmen. Indeed, some such display of cruelty and petty tyranny toward inferiors, the helpless and unoffending, is deemed by English travellers, in whose service he had generally been, the highest recommendation that an Egyptian dragoman can produce; and one most likely to procure him employment in the outset, and to sustain him long in the favour and good graces of his master.

The morning was lovely; we were in good spirits; and our new dragoman appeared so blooming, that we thought the time rather propitious for making an acceptable figure in paying our respects to the presiding genius of the consulate of the United States. Accordingly, the doctor and myself mounted donkeys, and set out with Selim, also on a donkey, and three naked muleteers whipping our animals into a gait of most unenviable locomotion.

As we drew up in front of the palace of the consul, the dragoman and muleteers fell by the ears, and made such an uproar, that we felt ashamed of our company.

The doctor mildly admonished the ferocious dragoman, and begged that he would be a little more gentle with the poor donkey-boys, whom this fellow, in red cap and peaked-toed Turkish shoes, seemed to

be desirous of whipping and banging about in the most cruel manner, every leisure moment.

We entered the vestibule, and ascended the great stair-case conducting to the apartments of the Danish gentleman, then the acting consul of the United States, whom we found writing and busily employed at the moment. He put his quill behind his ear, ordered seats, and treated us with civility and much apparent cordiality. So far as words are an indication, he seemed very desirous of being of service to us in some way or other, during our stay in Alexandria, and hoped that we would have no hesitation in commanding him in any manner we might find convenient to ourselves. This was all a stranger could wish or expect; and, since the gentleman appeared so desirous to serve us in some way or other, we thought it would not be improper to enlist his kind offices in our behalf for the gratification of a wish—the only one, that we knew of, in which he could be of the least use—and that was, in obtaining for us an audience with the Pacha of Egypt.

At that time, Mehemet Ali was the greatest living “lion” of the East; and the eyes of the whole world were upon him. We had, therefore, a desire to be introduced to him, that we might have an opportunity, however slight it might be, of seeing him face to face, and of judging from personal observation, something of that extraordinary individual, more than what we could learn from the published gossip about him in the journals of the day.

Upon making known this wish to the consular

functionary of the American government, he threw himself back a little more deeply into his capacious arm-chair; and, with increased complacency, and the assurances of his desire to do something for us, said that nothing in the world was easier, than for him to obtain an audience with the Pacha for us. He set his own time for it to take place, even without obtaining leave of the Pacha for such an audience, and declared it would give him the highest gratification to present us to his Highness; with whom he represented himself upon terms of intimacy and cordiality nearly as enviable as the extraordinary favour in which Mr. Firkins was held at the regal palace.

The next day was appointed for the presentation; and after some further conversation of a general nature, we took leave of our new and remarkably polite acquaintance; and, being joined at the hotel by Mrs. C., we rode out to review some of the ground that we had hurried over so rapidly on our arrival in Alexandria.

We passed along by a fine grove of date-trees, then loaded with that luscious fruit, pending beneath the graceful leaves and branches; and directed our course toward Pompey's Pillar.

We discovered, at a considerable distance before us, rather a brilliant party, mounted on donkeys; with a long train of attendants, winding slowly through the Arab burying-ground, up to the elevated spot where stood the object of our excursion. When the party arrived at the base of that noble monument, they dismounted, and threw themselves into the most

amusing attitudes of admiration. At first, we could not imagine who they were.

At last, says the doctor: "I think they must be the Wrinklebottoms and Mr. O'Statten."

"Yes," said our new dragoman, who had heard the conversation, "it is. They passed the palace of the American consul a few moments before you came down stairs."

Seeing that the Wrinklebottoms and Mr. O'Statten, with their long train of janizaries and Arab attendants, had passed through the cemetery, we thought that we would go that way too. It was a little nearer than the usual route to the column, and it had the additional attraction of a rather conspicuous monument erected over an Arab grave, near the centre of the burying-ground, which we had a desire to see. When we turned our donkeys in among the graves, we saw several undertakers opening new receptacles for the dead in the fresh sand, which they were scooping out with baskets and a rude kind of hoes; though they dug the graves to such a slight depth, that, were it not for the hills of sand which are hauled around them upon the top of the ground, the bodies would almost be blown out of their last resting-place. Neither these grave-diggers, however, nor any of the large crowds of public mourners and funeral-wailers that were prowling about in the cemetery, seeking employment, made the least objection to our entering the cemetery, and riding over it on donkeys. But when we came along in front of the rude erection which had attracted us thither, several sheet-envel-



PUBLIC MOURNERS AND WAILING-WOMEN OF EGYPT.

oped, hideous-looking objects in human shape, rushed out as suddenly and unexpectedly as if they had risen from their graves. They all had contribution-boxes in their hands, which they thrust rudely into our faces, demanding alms for their favourite saint, or something else, in the most uproarious and clamorous manner imaginable.

We did not stop to ascertain precisely the object to which our donation, had we given them any thing, would have been applied, nor were we in the right kind of mood to make any satisfactory reply to their noisy solicitations. Their style seemed to be a little too ardent, perhaps, to suit the pensive tone of our "meditations among the tombs;" and this and some other undefinable reasons had sealed the benevolent springs of our hearts, and so entangled the strings of our purses, that we did not give them a single *para*. Whereupon these frightful images set up a most clamorous hue-and-cry, with threatening gestures, on account of our riding through the burying-ground. And when I dismounted, and plucked a little flower from one of the Moslem graves, the ghostly uproar was increased to a frightful extent. So far as I could judge from tone, gesture, attitude, and looks, they thought the plucking of a flower from the grave of a Moslem by the hand of a "Christian dog," as all Franks are called by the faithful followers of the Prophet, the very consummation and superlative of all degrees of sacrilege of which human hands were capable.

We had already seen enough of Arab blustering

and fury, not to feel any serious apprehension from the effects of their noise—supposing, as usual, that like the “crackling of thorns under a pot,” it would all end at last in smoke.

Our gayly-attired dragoman, desirous of giving us further and more substantial evidence of his bravery and daring, put spurs and whip to his donkey, and charged upon these spectres of the tombs in the most heroic style conceivable.

The engagement was amusing and picturesque. The rich and gay-coloured costume of the dragoman contrasted strikingly with the grave-clothes of those whom he assailed, making his figure appear conspicuous, and certainly to the greatest advantage. He was so furious in the charge, however, that I was fearful the fellow was determined to give no quarter, but desired to kill and destroy every *soul* of his opponents; if, indeed, images seen in such a place, and under such circumstances, may be supposed to have any *souls*. They saw how resolute the rascal was in his onsets, and some sought safety in flight. He was not satisfied in driving the enemy from their stronghold, but followed up their retreat in a relentless and cruel manner, that would have done honour to the Turkish arms in the sanguinary days of the crusades. The poor creatures, in their flight, pitched down over the graves, and uttered such frightful noises, that I did not know but the very tombs would open and send forth their inmates against this violator of their silence and sanctity.

Things were really assuming a serious aspect; and,

lest the contemplated enjoyment of the day's excursion should be turned into the solemnities of a funeral over the dead body of one or more of the victims of the new dragoman's valour, I called him off from the pursuit, and we continued our route up to Pompey's Pillar without further molestation. There, as we expected, we found the Wrinklebottoms, in a fume of admiration and hot enthusiasm—full of a thousand strange surmises respecting the object and period of its erection. They would doubtless have felt an honest pride in tracing its history to the genius and munificent spirit of Englishmen, in commemoration of some glorious deed of the British arms, or the perpetuation of some distinguished virtue of some ancient English nobleman. In this, the utmost stretch of their imagination and genius found not the least chance of realization. Its known existence is so far anterior to the date of the English nation, that on that score there were no grounds of hope. They could not, therefore, but acknowledge, that it was the work of other than English hands, and commemorative of other than English glory or English virtue; and they were as much enraptured with that beautiful monument as it is possible for the Queen's loyal subjects to manifest for any thing not created by British hands, and manufactured out of England.

The two Misses Wrinklebottom were just at that moment finishing their sketches of the monument; and, as they rose to put up their paper and crayons, they both said, in the same breath—

“ I wish, papa, that we could get upon the top of Pompey’s Pillar ; it would be such a nice place to drink a cup of tea ! ”

“ Yes,” said Mrs. Wrinklebottom, “ I wish so too ; and what a *famous* place it would be from which to date our next letters to England ! ”

“ O yes,” said one of the Misses Wrinklebottom ; “ and if we could only write our names there too, up near the top, in large letters, it would not get rubbed out very easily, would it, mamma ? ”

“ No, dear,” replied Mrs. Wrinklebottom ; and then addressing herself to Mr. Wrinklebottom, — who seemed to be mentally calculating the difficulties naturally attending the ascension to the top of a smooth granite column, something over a hundred feet high — “ I wish the girls could write their names up there, it would look so well.”

“ *Decidedly,*” said Mr. Wrinklebottom, “ it would be *capital* ; but it’s not *possible.* ”

“ And,” said one of the Misses Wrinklebottom, “ if we could take a cup of tea and date our letters there ! ”

“ But,” said Mr. Wrinklebottom, “ it’s impossible, *decidedly impossible,* my dear.”

“ O ! I wish we could, papa,” said the other Miss Wrinklebottom ; and, turning to Mr. O’Statten, she added, “ don’t you think, Mr. O’Statten, that we can get upon the top of the column to take a cup of tea, date our letters there, and write our names with the other English travellers ? How did they get up there, pray, if we cannot ? ”

“The thing is *impossible*, dear,” again exclaimed Mr. Wrinklebottom, “*decidedly impossible*.”

“No,” replied Mr. O’Statten, addressing himself to one of the Misses Wrinklebottom, “I do not think it will be possible to get permission to ascend the column now; although, until within the last three or four years, nothing was more common for parties of English ladies and gentlemen going out to India or returning, than to dine and take tea upon the column, and they used to have *famous* times. But, when Lord Sweepstakes and his friend Sir Jeffrey Windfall, and their suite, came out to Egypt in their splendid yacht, a few years since, they raised the English flag upon the top of the Pillar, and gave a superb champagne dinner there—it was a most *capital thing*. They got so tipsy, however, and were *taken down* so soon themselves, that they forgot to take their *flag down*. The consequence was, that the Pacha, when he arose the next morning and saw the English colours flying on the top of Pompey’s Pillar, wanted to know what it all meant, and if Egypt had recently been taken by the English? He was informed that the flag was raised in honour of a jovial dinner-party that Lord Sweepstakes and his friend Sir Jeffrey had been giving there the day before, and that it was forgotten. ‘Forgotten!’ said the Pacha, ‘by Sir Jeffrey Windfall and Lord Sweepstakes! Well, take their flag down for them, then; and never allow those drunken English rascals to dine and get tipsy upon the top of Pompey’s Pillar again to the latest day of their lives. I’ll have no

more of this rioting and drunkenness in such elevated circles !' The fact is," continued Mr. O'Statten, "the Pacha had been quite soured by the conduct of both Lord Sweepstakes and Sir Jeffrey at the palace, the day before they gave their dinner-party, and was still in bad humour on that account. They were presented to the Pacha by the English consul-general resident at Alexandria, and were received by his Highness with his accustomed urbanity. Pipes and coffee were brought in, as usual, and offered to Lord Sweepstakes and Sir Jeffrey, both of whom, to the astonishment of the consul-general, and to the bitter indignation of the Pacha, refused the pipes, and would not puff a single whiff at the splendid amber mouth-piece pipes of the Pacha ! Nothing could have been in worse taste, nor more ill-natured ; and so indignant was the Pacha at their low breeding, that he gave positive orders, with a most fearful oath — a wicked oath, which I could not repeat without offending the ears of the ladies — that henceforth and for ever thereafter, no pipe should be offered to any Englishman introduced at the palace, upon the pain of death to the person so offending in violation of said order of his Highness the viceroy ; and furthermore, that henceforth and for ever, no Englishman or Englishmen, nor English lady or English ladies, or any part thereof, should be allowed from that time to ascend Pompey's Pillar for the purpose of dining, taking tea, dating letters, writing their names on its sides, nor for any other purpose whatsoever !

"And," still continued Mr. O'Statten, "greatly to

the regret of a large majority of the English travellers (for most of them would like to dine or take tea on the Pillar, and leave their names in large black letters near the top), neither of those shameful decrees has, as yet, been revoked. A formal complaint, and many petitions, have been laid before the English ambassador at Constantinople in regard to it; but nothing has been done. Whether, in the pending negotiations of the 'great powers' for the settlement of the eastern difficulties between the Grand Sultan and his vassal, a provision for the ascension of Pompey's Pillar by her Majesty's subjects travelling in Egypt, for the purposes aforesaid, will be insisted upon by her Majesty's ministers, of course has not yet transpired. The dignity of the English nation demands of her Majesty's government some prompt, energetic, warlike remonstrances against a decree so barbarous and unjust on the part of the Pacha; and I think a special agent on the part of her Majesty's government ought to be sent out to Egypt, with positive instructions from her Majesty's ministers at home, to make a '*formal demand*' upon the Pacha for the revocation and entire repeal of those two odious and unjust decrees, which are a stain upon our national honour."

"Certainly," said Mrs. Wrinklebottom; "I think so too, Mr. O'Statten, and there is one thing about it—when we get home, Mr. Wrinklebottom shall publish the abuse in every paper in England, and that will prevent English gentlemen and ladies from coming here."

“O! but that would be really too bad, mamma,” observed one of the Misses Wrinklebottom.

“No,” rejoined Mrs. Wrinklebottom, “it will not, my dear; it will teach this bloodthirsty barbarian of an Egyptian Pacha better next time how to respect the English character. And besides, dear Euphemia, there is a point of dignity and national elevation involved in this question, which you don’t understand at all, child. The national honour must be sustained, and the dignity of the British crown must be kept up, at home and abroad, in every part of the globe, dear; and her Majesty’s loyal subjects must be protected and defended in all parts of the universe by the government, or her Majesty’s ministers can’t keep their places another day.”

“True,” said Mr. Wrinklebottom, who by this time began to feel a little warmed by the loyal and spirited tone of Mrs. Wrinklebottom’s conversation — “*decidedly true*; and, immediately on my arrival in Constantinople, I’ll draw up a formal complaint against this flagrant abuse and insult to the English flag, and lay it before his Excellency the British ambassador, who shall immediately demand his passports, or record it as an item, to be incorporated into the affairs to be settled by the ‘great powers’ in the pending diplomatic negotiations.”

“That is very just,” replied Mr. O’Statten. “It is only by spirited remonstrances against insults like this, and peremptory demands for immediate and satisfactory redress of such intolerable grievances, that the dignity and national honour of Great Britain can

be sustained upon its present elevated pinnacle. I'm right glad, Mr. Wrinklebottom, to see your estimable lady aroused on this business, for I'm sure something will now be done."

"That there will," said Mrs. Wrinklebottom; "and, so soon as we arrive in England, it shall all be published in *a book!*"

By this time, they had all worked themselves into a fever of patriotic excitement and glorious boasting about what was to be done with this "bloodthirsty old Pacha" for insulting the British flag; and they gathered up their paint-boxes, sketching-stools, drawing-papers, etc., remounted their donkeys, and gave orders to their janizary to conduct themselves and cortege to Cleopatra's Baths.



MRS. WRINKLEBOTTOM TROLLING THE ODIOUS PACHA.

CHAPTER XI.

Pompey's Pillar. — “*J. S. Buckingham, ex-Member of Parliament.*” — *His Account of Pompey's Pillar and Cleopatra's Needles.* — *Wilkinson's Opinion and Conjecture of their Origin.* — *Reign of Thothmes III., King of Egypt.* — *Disinclination of Monarchs to record their own Disasters.* — *Gold Bracelet of Thothmes III.* — *General Inclination of all Nations for Plunder and Spoil.*

POMPEY'S PILLAR is by far the most interesting and wonderful of all the visible remains of ancient Alexandria. It is composed of a single shaft of finely-polished Egyptian granite, seventy-three feet high, and a little over nine feet in diameter. That immense and stupendous monument of the power, taste, wealth, and mechanical skill of the ancient dwellers in Alexandria, stands upon a solid block of red oriental granite, each of the sides of which measures about fifteen feet. This block rests upon a sub-structure of stone mason-work, which, I am sorry to say, is falling to pieces; and, should it not soon be repaired, it would not be surprising to hear that this beautiful monument of antiquity, like most of the other splendid erections of the old Egyptians, had tumbled down, and was destined ere long to be buried in the

drifting sands of the desert. The whole erection is surmounted by a well-wrought Corinthian capital of corresponding proportions, making the height of it altogether something over one hundred feet. This extraordinary pillar, though exposed to the humid blasts of two seas, and having stood in its present position from a period scarcely unveiled by the finger of history, is even now, in every part of it, where it has not been bedaubed with the names of European travellers, beautifully polished, and glitters in the sun like burnished steel.

If I am right in my recollection, Mr. Buckingham, *the* "ex-member of Parliament," in his fanciful lecture with which he enlightened the dark and benighted inhabitants of the obscure city of New York, in the winter of 1838, speaking of this "Pompey's Pillar," told us that it was not "Pompey's Pillar," or rather, it was not Pompey the Great's Pillar—but a pillar that was erected to the memory of a certain Popaios, who had imported a quantity of corn into Alexandria, at a time when there was a *great scarcity* of that article in Egypt, and distributed it among the inhabitants gratis. The learned gentleman, however, did not content himself with such a meager and beggarly account of this splendid monument; but he kindly continued its history—and no doubt much to the amusement of the good people of Gotham, whose notions, touching "Pompey's Pillar," must have been, until then, quite vague and unsatisfactory. He asserted that said pillar was only one of some hundred or more which adorned a certain heathen temple

that once stood in the centre of ancient Alexandria, in the angle of four streets of one thousand feet broad each, terminating, or rather meeting, in the square in which this temple stood; which, the learned lecturer said, was dedicated, I think, to Jupiter Serapis, or some other god who was never much known or esteemed by the ancient people of that country, of all others most fruitful in deities of every description. The "ex-member of Parliament" also affirmed that *the* temple was erected upon a platform or sub-structure of stone, one hundred feet high and a thousand feet square; and that there were flights of steps the whole length of each side of this rather broad and elevated platform, carried up all around from the base to the top. The temple, supported by one hundred or more of those fine Egyptian granite pillars, seventy-three feet high, and twenty-eight feet three inches in circumference, the learned gentleman informed us, was erected upon the said platform, with suitable Corinthian capitals, architraves, pediments, etc.; so that the whole structure, when completed, could have been little, if any thing less than two hundred and fifty feet high! After building this fine "castle in the air," the lecturer, to give the whole a more poetical turn, and to complete the picture, informed the large and crowded audience that it was subsequently destroyed by an earthquake!* This interesting historical account

* Gibbon says, in his "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," that the temple of Serapis, in Alexandria, was destroyed by the Christians, in accordance with an edict of Theodosius, prohibiting the worship of idols in that city. — Gibbon's "Decline and Fall," London ed. in 1 vol. 8vo, p. 444.

of "Pompey's Pillar," connected with a temple so remarkable as that of the Jupiter Serapis of the "ex-member of Parliament," naturally made an impression upon my mind at the time, which I did not fail to remember when I stood before that noble, chaste, and truly beautiful erection. The thought, not very extraordinary to be sure, suggested itself to me, if this splendid pillar is indeed only one of some hundred or more that once adorned a temple of such colossal dimensions, in the centre of the city of ancient Alexandria, where are the rest of them? Have none of them, or not the least fragment of them, ever been discovered? But upon making diligent inquiry in Alexandria, I was unable to fall in with any one who could give me the least information respecting them. I did not see them in the British Museum, among the confused wreck of the broken ornaments pillaged from the Parthenon at Athens, and concluded that if they ever existed at all, except in the learned gentleman's imagination, and were not actually brought away in his "breeches pockets," they must be in the private cabinet of Lord Elgin, who robbed the temples of Greece, or among the antique relics and precious gems of Mr. Salt, the English consul, who broke open and ransacked the tombs of Egypt.

The learned "ex-member," in the course of the same evening, if I am not at fault in my recollection, continuing his interesting narrative of the wonderful remains still visible among the crushed ruins of ancient Alexandria, came down upon the obelisks of

Cleopatra with much emphasis and a great flourish of learned phraseology in Arabic and other oriental languages, which the distinguished "ex-member" seemed to handle as familiarly and with as much ease as ordinary mortals pull off and put on their gloves and slippers. I think it was not the evening, however, that he so enlightened his audience in a lengthened and very learned discourse upon the definition of the word "*nigh*"—a definition that the people of New York, and the inhabitants of the United States generally, could have known very little about, until the arrival of the learned "ex-member," who not only made us all acquainted with the meaning of the little word "*nigh*," but he also told us that in England the apothecaries sold the powdered remains of Egyptian mummies for physic! In fact, as is well known, the learned "ex-member" was full of intelligence, and enlightened our confiding and rather easily-humbugged countrymen most prodigiously upon oriental subjects, especially in the mysteries of the antique,—in which the learned "ex-member" seemed to be so well versed, that he discussed their age, merit, present, past, and future state, as if he had been one of the family that entered into the ark with Noah—came out safe and sound after the flood;—and, having had a supervision of every thing that has taken place in the world since that event, expected to live till the downfall of all things, and their final destruction by fire. But when he came to the obelisks bearing the name of the celebrated queen of Egypt, it was really an interesting

point in the learned "ex-member's" discourse. After informing us that one obelisk was still standing, and that the other, nearly buried in sand, had been presented by the cunning old Pacha of Egypt to half the reigning sovereigns in Europe, who, in return, one after the other, had sent the Pacha gold snuff-boxes, diamond rings, and other trinkets of great value; and then, finding it impossible to take their obelisk away, had left it in the Viceroy's possession, still to humbug other princes with—the learned gentleman went on to state that those two obelisks stood in front of the *Library* of Cleopatra. His description of the obelisks, and the buildings containing the books of the voluptuous queen, was indeed a finished specimen of the art of an able lecturer, and it sustained the character of the "ex-member" wondrously well for highly-finished fabrication. Nor did he forget to describe the library, and to tell us that the books were a new-year's gift from Mark Antony to Cleopatra; and that they were so numerous at the time of the Saracen invasion, when their destruction was decreed, that they amply served the four thousand bathing establishments, which he said then existed in Alexandria, six months for fuel!

The celebrated library of Alexandria is said to have been destroyed three times: once by Cæsar, once by the Christians, and again by the order of Omar, who said, "If these writings of the Greeks agree with the book of God (i. e. the Koran), they are useless, and need not be preserved: if they disagree, they are pernicious, and ought to be destroyed."

Gibbon, however, after giving the account of its destruction by the followers of Mohammed, says: "I am strongly tempted to deny both the fact and the consequences The rigid sentence of Omar is repugnant to the sound and orthodox precept of the Mohammedan casuists; they expressly declare, that the religious books of the Jews and Christians which are acquired by the right of war, should never be committed to the flames; and that the works of profane science, historians or poets, physicians or philosophers, may be lawfully applied to the use of the faithful."*

By other travellers and various authors, the obelisks, or Cleopatra's Needles, are said to have stood before or in the palace of the Ptolemies; which, after the Roman conquest, was naturally called the palace of the Cæsars; and the scattered fragments that are still visible there are amply indicative that a structure of no ordinary dimensions and richness once stood near them.

Mr. Wilkinson† says that they are of the time of the brilliant reign of Thothmes III. — "one of the most remarkable reigns that occur in the history of Egypt. He was a prince," continues Mr. Wilkinson,

* Gibbon says that the famous Library of Alexandria was destroyed with the temple of Serapis by the hands of the Christians, under the immediate direction of "Theophilus, the perpetual enemy of peace and virtue; a bold, bad man, whose hands were alternately polluted with gold and with blood." Theophilus was then upon the archiepiscopal throne of Alexandria; and, in pursuance of a decree of Theodosius, pronouncing destruction to the idolatrous temples and gods of Alexandria, this zealous functionary of the church destroyed the library of the heathens with their deities. — *Gibbon's "Decline and Fall,"* Lond. 4to ed., p. 444; *ibid.* p. 912.

† Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, vol. i., p. 56, note.



CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE.

“ who aspired to the merit of benefiting his country by an unbounded encouragement of the arts of peace and war.” This remarkable Pharaoh is supposed to have been upon the throne of Egypt at the time of the Exodus of the Israelites, which took place, as Mr. Wilkinson* supposes, in the fourth year of his reign ; and, as these obelisks, as well as others now in Rome, and one in Constantinople, together with numerous buildings which he founded in Ethiopia, Upper and Lower Egypt, besides extensive additions which he made to the temples of Thebes, Memphis, Heliopolis, Coptos, and other large cities of the country, — were all achieved by him subsequently to the departure of the Jews out of Egypt, he concludes that Pharaoh could not have been drowned in the Red Sea with the Egyptian troops who were pursuing the hosts of Israel, as related in the Bible.† “ Indeed,” he continues, “ there is no authority in the writings of Moses for supposing that Pharaoh was drowned in the Red Sea ; and from our finding that wherever any fact is mentioned in the Bible history we do not find any thing on the monuments which tends to contradict it, we may conclude that these two authorities will not be at variance with each other.”

Pharaoh was doubtless at the head of the Egyptian army‡ at the time of the pursuit ; but whether he did or did not enter into the sea with the rest of the

* Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, i. 54, 55.

† Exod. xiv. 9, 23 : “ But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth before Baal-zephon. And the Egyptians pursued and went in after them, to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.” ‡ *Ibid.* xiv. 6–10.

Egyptians, who perished amid the overwhelming waves, I do not know that there is any positive record in the Scriptures to determine—though it is written that the Lord said unto Moses, “I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them; and I will get me honour upon *Pharaoh*, and upon all his hosts, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.”*

If the honour alluded to, in the declaration of the Lord to Moses, was to consist in the destruction of the Egyptians, it would be a natural inference that it was intended to destroy their leader as well as the slavish hosts who followed him, and obeyed his commands; else the destruction of a few thousand troops, and his chariots and horses, could have been no very awful affliction, or have occasioned no very great degree of embarrassment to a rich and powerful king, such as Thothmes III. was at the time: who then had twenty thousand populous cities, and all the immense resources of the valley of the Nile, from whence to have raised and equipped a new army.

It is true that in the scriptural account of that very extraordinary event, no mention is made of Pharaoh's entering into the midst of the sea with his army in person; nor in the Song of Moses† which the Israelites sung to the Lord on the shores of the Red Sea, after their miraculous deliverance and the overthrow of the Egyptians, is any mention made of the drowning or destruction of Pharaoh, further than might be conveyed by the destruction of his army. It is said,

* Exod. xiv. 17.

† Ibid. xv. 1.

“Pharaoh’s chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea : his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. The depths have covered them : they sunk to the bottom as a stone.”*

The death of so important a personage as the powerful and hard-hearted Pharaoh, would, as Mr. Wilkinson suggests, have been “an event of sufficient consequence at least to have been noticed, and one which would not have been omitted.”†

It is also true that David,‡ in recounting the wonderful mercies of the Lord, and in his earnest exhortation to give thanks to God for particular favours, has said that *Pharaoh* and his host were overthrown in the Red Sea ; from which we may infer at least, let the fact be as it may, that at the period in which David lived, it was the common belief that Pharaoh was drowned in the Red Sea, as well as his army. Mr. Wilkinson, however, thinks that this testimony “can scarcely be opposed to that of Moses ;” when the fact is, Moses does not say positively whether Pharaoh was drowned or not.

But the most natural inference in the world would be, from the declarations of the Lord to Moses concerning that wonderful event, and from the other circumstances attending it, that Pharaoh was lost with his army, and that they all alike shared a common grave in the midst of the sea. David, to say the least, was as likely to know the truth in regard to an event so very extraordinary, and one of such exceed-

* Exod. xv. 4, 5.

† Wilkinson’s *Ancient Egyptians*, vol. i., p. 56.

‡ Psalm cxxxvi. 15.

ing interest to him and his nation, as any, even the most intelligent author of our times: and, that he supposed Pharaoh was in person destroyed, with his chariots, his horses, his entire army, and every thing appertaining thereunto, I think there can scarcely be a doubt.

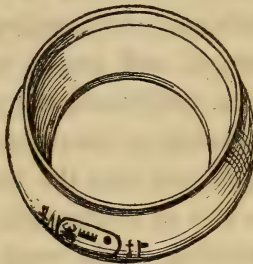
But according to Mr. Wilkinson, this Pharaoh, Thothmes III., came back from the disastrous pursuit of the Israelites in safety; and, after extending his arms and authority over Ethiopia and several northern nations, from all of which he exacted and received an annual tribute (of which fact he informs us that the monuments* of Thebes at the present day bear ample testimony), he greatly benefited his country by a successful cultivation of the arts of peace; embellished it with splendid temples, which he founded himself; enlarged and greatly adorned those already in existence, and raised many statues, obelisks, and other monuments, to record and perpetuate the glory of his reign; and that the two venerable obelisks now in the city of Alexandria, are a part of the fragments still existing of the works of art achieved under his administration of the affairs of Egypt.

Unfortunately, in the historical paintings and monumental erections of ancient nations, there was no greater inclination, apparently, to record their own disasters and defeats, than is manifested among different communities of our time; else much light might have been disclosed in regard to the fact, whether Pharaoh was or was not lost with his army in

* Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, vol. i., pp. 53-56.

the Red Sea, by the recent discoveries in hieroglyphics on these very obelisks and other monuments supposed to have been erected soon after the departure of the Israelites out of Egypt. But upon this subject the sculptures of Egypt are perfectly silent. No mention is made of defeats and overthrows; but, like the historical paintings at Versailles, and many other European galleries, victories alone are portrayed, and defeats are left to be filled up by those that have conquered.

When we were in Holland, we saw, in the fine Egyptian Museum of Leyden, a beautiful gold bracelet, bearing the name of King Thothmes III. of Egypt. And if he was really the hard-hearted Pha-



GOLD BRACELET OF THOTHMES III.

raoh that oppressed the Israelites so cruelly, may not Moses, who was so frequently commanded to appear before him, have seen him in his kingly robes, and wearing this same beautiful bracelet?

But the obelisks of Alexandria, whether erected by order of the Pharaoh who "knew not Joseph," and who so sorely afflicted his brethren, or not, are nevertheless remarkable monuments; and appear

much more interesting and impressive where they now stand, amid the desolation and crumbled ruins of an ancient city, than many similar works of art which have been transported from Egypt to Europe, at a vast expense, and may be seen in Constantino-ple, Rome, and Paris, surmounted with crosses, crescents, and tawdry gilding — commemorative, in their present positions, rather of the folly and pampered vanity of those who have thus injudiciously removed them, than of the munificence and wisdom of worthy princes.

The spirit of pillage and plunder has been indulged in by all victorious nations, which, by turns, have themselves nearly all been plundered. The Persians first plundered the Egyptians; the Greeks the Persians; the Romans the Greeks; the French laid nearly the whole of Europe under contribution; and England has pillaged from all nations. But never, I believe, until the formation of the black league, and the downfall of Napoleon, was a general restoration insisted upon by a combination of princes; and even then, it was only carried into effect to a partial extent. The strong governments, and those immediately dependant on, or under the protection of such as were sufficiently powerful to make themselves respected, got back all the works of art that Napoleon had taken from them and carried to Paris to enrich the vast and splendid collections of the Louvre. France was, of course, stripped and laid under heavy contributions, while the old landmarks were hauled up, old dynasties revived, and a day of

restitution instituted ; but its blessings did not extend to all.

The light of some communities that had once blazed through the world, was put out for ever. The republic of Venice was crushed. She did indeed receive back her bronze horses, which in the plenitude of her power she had snatched from the lofty portals of Constantinople ; and the deathless touches of Titian and other of her old painters, were restored to the walls where they had hung for centuries before. But it was only that a foreign prince might possess them. They received the sword and crown of the Emperor of Austria with them. They were never to revive again as a nation : the black league of Europe had otherwise decreed. They were to become an insignificant appendage to the Austrian empire ; and the spoils which the French had collected in the course of their invasions of Egypt, were deemed honourable and worthy plunder with which to enrich the British Museum. The acquisition of these only kindled a national taste for the more extensive pillage of the defenceless states of the Levant.

While the resident English ambassador at Constantinople was engaged in the work of demolition and robbery of the Grecian temples, the English consul-general at Alexandria was no less assiduous in the destruction of those of Egypt, and in emptying the graves of the dead. Tombs that had rested in silence, and which had been respected as sacred through the long centuries of Persian, Grecian, Roman, and Turkish oppression, were now wantonly

broken into. Coffins were emptied of their dust, and sent into a distant land, to gratify the vanity of an English lord. The old monuments of Egypt were torn up and broken into fragments, to swell the lumber in the British Museum. A double robbery was committed by the British nation: first, in pillaging Egypt, and again in the extortions inflicted upon their own oppressed people, to pay dearly the unworthy hire of the robbers themselves!

Who is benefited by all this? Are not the beauty and interest of many gems of art greatly diminished—many of the noble achievements of the genius and munificence of ancient nations nearly or wholly destroyed? Is science advanced by it? Has it been the means of establishing free schools in England? Has it opened her cathedrals to public inspection without a fee? Is there more political or religious freedom enjoyed by the people on that account? Has the window-tax been diminished—the monopoly of printing the Bible—the duty on bread, received any modification on account of this pillage among the antiquities of the East? If not, what then has been the advantage derived from this reckless plunder and spoil among the venerable remains of ancient nations?



ENGLISH MUMMY-PILL FACTORY.

CHAPTER XII.

“Plagues of Egypt.” — An Evening with Mr. Firkins. — His Opinion of Mehemet Ali and the Diplomacy of the “Great Powers.” — Jealousy of the Allies, and Mehemet Ali’s Check upon their Diplomatic Intrigues. — Subtlety of the Pacha, and the Promises of France. — The Pacha’s Government, and its Effects upon the People.

THIS, though the last day of December, has been like May in New England; really most delightful weather. Yet, with all the sunshine, dates, flowers, and delicacies of the season, there is a chilliness in the evening breeze; though it is not quite cold enough to stiffen the musquitoes, thousands of which are buzzing about my ears; and now and then a flea drops in to disturb the monotony of their music.

“The ‘plagues of Egypt’ are not quite all out of Alexandria yet,” said I to Mr. Firkins, who came in just at the moment — “although Mehemet Ali has had the whole Turkish fleet riding at anchor so near the door of his palace, that the smoke from his pipe mingles with that from the cannon of the fine seventy-fours and hundred-and-twenty-gun-ships that cut such a capital figure here just now.”

“True,” said Mr. Firkins, “Egypt has plagues enough in all conscience, *decidedly*; and the Eu-

ropean plagues are among the most annoying of them all. These ships are *decidedly* some of the most splendid in the world; and——”

“Well they may be,” said I, “for they were built by an American: the Americans make some things well, and scarcely any thing better than their ships.”

“Or worse,” said Mr. Firkins, “than speculations.”

“True,” said I, “Mr. Firkins; then you have heard of some of our whims and follies, even here in Egypt?”

“In Egypt!” replied Mr. Firkins; “that blue bubble of painted cities in the woods, and lots in the bottom of the sea, is the jest of the whole world. My friends in India make a standing joke of American speculations. In all their letters to me, they seem to chuckle over them like a cobbler over his beer.”

“But——”

“But,” rejoined Mr. Firkins, “you have not heard me through.”

“Pardon,”

“Well, then,” continued Mr. F., “these fine ships are not among the most annoying ‘plagues of Egypt,’ nor are they plagues at all; what a really brilliant display they make!”

“True,” said I, “they do make a fine display; but——”

“But,” replied Mr. Firkins, “Mehemet Ali dined on board one of these monsters of the deep to-day, in company with about three hundred guests, including all the *great men* of the country.”

“Indeed!”

“Yes,” continued Mr. Firkins, “and a most capital time they have had of it too. What a thundering of guns, and burning of gunpowder! what a rattling of champagne-glasses and coffee-cups! and above all, what a cloud of smoke ascended from the fragrant fumes of three hundred pipes put in active blast by Mehemet Ali and his three hundred guests! It was a famous time. No one here supposes that the Pacha will give up this splendid fleet; and, as matters now stand, he is a great fool, in my opinion, if he does. However, Mehemet Ali is no fool; and France will endorse his protection of the Turkish fleet and the brave old admiral, who has thrown himself and the Sultan’s ships into such fine winter quarters.”

“Do you really think so?”

“Think so!” replied Mr. Firkins, “I not only think so, but I know so. The Pacha has already told me as much: not in the same words, to be sure, but the same thing.”

“Really!”

“Certainly he has,” continued Mr. Firkins, “and all this long-winded, diplomatic, nonsensical entanglement will end, if it ever end at all, in no good. England has emancipated her slaves in the *West* Indies, and greatly tightened the chains and fetters with which she cruelly tyrannizes over and oppresses her millions upon millions of slaves in the *East*. She starves her myriads of peasants at home, and keeps up her odious corn-law system to fill the pockets of

the rich landed-proprietors, out of the mouths and collapsed bellies of her thousands upon thousands of wretched subjects in Great Britain, who sleep on the ground, live in hovels, burn dirt, clothe in rags, and eat what drops to them from the unsteady hand of chance! She is about to marry her virgin Queen to a German cousin, which will not probably lighten the public burden, already too grievous. She '*protects the Ionian islands*;' lords it over Canada; threatens to make war upon the trade of her manufactures with the United States; and pledges herself not to violate the integrity of the Ottoman empire. Mehemet Ali strokes his long silvery beard, deliberately moves his amber pipe from his mouth, gives a significant whiff, looks out upon his splendid fleet, and says, 'France will stand by me to the last.' Great bodies move the world."

"And yet," said I, "the emptiest things reverberate the loudest sound."

"Yes, I understand all that well enough," continued Mr. Firkins. "But then you must know that what the Pacha says, has something more in it than mere vague and empty sound. He claims and demands of the Grand Sultan full and absolute dominion over Syria and Candia, as well as Egypt; and that the undisputed right to reign over all these countries shall be hereditary in his family. With the Turkish fleet at his door, and his victorious armies in Syria, backed by the promises of France, I think there can be no doubt of his ultimately obtaining all he asks. After all, however, he would not insist upon

breaking off the nominal connexion that still exists between him and the Porte ; but would doubtless be willing to continue the accustomed tribute and presents to the Grand Seignior. To this reasonable demand of the Pacha, it is said that the Sultan would at once most gladly accede, if left to himself. But Russia, fearing the consequences to her ambitious designs, of so formidable a power as that would be in the hands of so able a man as Mehemet Ali, throws all sorts of obstacles in the way ; and, up to the present moment, has prevented the consummation of any arrangement whereby the unsettled state of eastern affairs might be tranquillized and happily terminated, without the further effusion of blood. The whole affair is now entirely out of the hands of the Grand Sultan and his nominal vassal ; and the ' five powers ' have attempted, though thus far ineffectually, to manage the whole question in dispute by diplomatic negotiation. At present, however, it is not known whether this business will be quietly arranged, or result in a general war, in which Europe and Asia may again be unfortunately deluged in blood. So far, it is said, difficulties have sprung up, one after another, sufficiently great to defeat even the preliminaries to an amicable and definite adjustment. Russia has long had an anxious and ambitious eye upon Constantinople, and is in hopes, upon the downfall of the Turkish empire (an event that must happen, sooner or later), to place her foot firmly in that splendid city ; which, once fairly beneath her gigantic tread, would become the key

to the destinies of Europe, if not also to all the vast and important countries of the East. France, England, Austria, and Prussia will not consent to any measures that will be likely to give Russia the advantages of that position. They would therefore, for the most part, prefer bringing about an adjustment of existing difficulties in the Turkish empire, by dividing the territory between the contending parties, to waiting the natural dissolution of it under its own immoral weight of corruption, and then run the risk of the chances of war: a war which would almost unavoidably immediately ensue. Indeed, there would not probably be any difficulty in settling the question in accordance with the original resolution of the 'five powers,' were it not for the exceeding jealousy that exists between the interfering parties themselves. Neither of the umpire states is willing to trust either of the others with the unrestrained power to compel Mehemet Ali to do what was long since decided, by the interfering nations, should be the only basis of tranquillity to the Turkish empire, and peace to Europe: that is, the evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian troops, and the unreserved surrender of the Turkish fleet. This, the 'great powers' declared, should be done; and that, should Mehemet Ali refuse to comply with the demand when made, he was to be compelled to do it. Although either of the five powers would gladly enough take the thing in hand, and march their troops to the frontiers of Egypt, with a view to its accomplishment; yet neither is willing to trust any of the others

with the finishing stroke. England says to France, 'We cannot trust you with the settlement of this business, lest, when you have brought the Pacha to subjection, you might be inclined to keep possession of Egypt.' France is equally afraid of the ambitious designs of England. She thinks that England would be glad to find a plausible pretext for throwing her *protecting* arms over the valley of the Nile, somewhat in the same style that she 'protects the Ionian islands.' Russia opposes all, or either of the other powers, in moving in what she thinks her peculiar position and proximity to the seat of difficulty especially constitute her the natural agent for accomplishing. Again, Austria and all the other powers stand out most valiantly against the active interference of Russia, coercively, in the business; because they think they have pretty good evidence for believing that she, after disposing of the Pacha, would most probably take care of herself—and would not only hold on to the fleet, and perhaps Egypt, but would endeavour to keep possession of Turkey into the bargain. Indeed, it is said that the ministers of the late Sultan were corrupted by the Russian government; and only waited to get possession of the fleet, in order that they might, on the death of the late Sultan, surrender it into the hands of Russia, together with Constantinople, and the dominion over the Turkish empire. Such is the declared opinion of the Capitan Pacha, who commanded the Turkish fleet; and so far from committing what most of the world pronounces the basest piece of treachery upon

record in modern history, he claims to have done a patriotic and praiseworthy action, in conducting the fleet to Alexandria, and placing it under the protection of Mehemet Ali ; who is able to keep it out of the hands of Russia, and is ready and willing to render the most efficient and essential assistance to the Porte. Thus," continued Mr. Firkins, "when rogues become suspicious of each other, and disagree, honest men get their due : Mehemet Ali keeps what he has got, and holds the united threats of the 'great powers' at naught, and of no great account."

"But," said I to Mr. Firkins, as he wound off the last sentence, "you, living upon such familiar, hand-and-glove kind of terms with the Pacha, can hardly be considered a fair and impartial judge of his government and the wisdom of his policy."

"Perhaps not," said Mr. Firkins, "though I believe I am better able to judge of his talents, and the effects of his government upon the country, than almost any man in Egypt. Mehemet Ali is now more than seventy years of age. He is tyrannical and despotic, beyond all manner of doubt. But I believe that, with all his tyranny, he has the best interests of the country at heart, and his government, despotic as it may be called, is not the worst government in the world for Egypt, after all. The Pacha is exceedingly energetic, and perseveres in whatever he undertakes with most commendable activity. The country is improving, and daily becoming more and more productive ; and the Egyptians themselves are gradually being brought into a state of civilization——"

CHAPTER XIII.

Further Conversation with Mr. Firkins.—Inhabitants, Revenue, and Education of Egypt.—The Army and Military Conscriptions.—Influence and Power of Mehemet Ali.—Revolting Expedients of Mothers to exempt their Sons from Service in the Army.—Their Cruel Practices rendered unavailing.—One-eyed Regiment.—Pernicious Effects of Climate upon the Eye.—Caution to Strangers.—Franks mistaken for Conjurers and Physicians.—Eminence and Skill of the Ancient Physicians of Egypt.—Fatal Experiments punished by Death.—Ancient Quacks.

“THE Pacha,” continued Mr. Firkins, “has established manufactories and schools in various parts of the country, at a vast expense; and it is said that there are at least twenty thousand Egyptian children regularly attending school. His revenue, compared with the population of the country, may appear, at first sight, rather large. It is said to come fully up to £6,000,000;* while the number of in-

* Wilkinson's Egyptians, First Series, ii. 87:—“With respect to the public revenues of Egypt, Diodorus Siculus states them to have been, in his time, equal to six thousand talents, or about one million two thousand pounds.”

Ibid. i. 225:—“And under Ptolemy Auletes, the father of Cleopatra, the revenue amounted to twelve thousand five hundred talents, or between three and four millions sterling.”

habitants in Egypt will fall somewhat under two millions."

"That, of course," said I, "includes the amount of revenue derived from Syria and Candia."

"Why, as to that matter," said Mr. Firkins, "both Syria and Candia, thus far, have been a dead weight upon the Pacha's hands, and have cost him a prodigious sum of money. He is obliged to keep up a large army, under existing circumstances; and this revenue, though it may seem to be enormous for the size of the country, is scarcely enough to defray the expenses of the government. Besides, this can hardly be considered as raised by a tax upon the inhabitants of Egypt, since most of the soil and a greater proportion of every other species of property in Egypt are not only under the control of the Pacha, but actually belong to him."

"So that," said I, "these six millions of pounds sterling may be considered nothing more or less than the nett proceeds of the sale of all the surplus products of Egypt, over and above what is required for the subsistence of the population of the country."

"Exactly," rejoined Mr. Firkins; "just as it is in England among the great lords and rich nobles in that country. Mehemet Ali, perhaps, is a little more extensively engaged in business than they are, and conducts it on rather more liberal principles. For instance, he has no odious corn-laws; no minister tax; and he has introduced a system, to some extent, of public education. He has sent some of the Arabs abroad and educated them at his own expense, and

others he is instructing at home. These circumstances, together with the advantages of climate and cheap bread, give the poor people of Egypt a wonderful advantage, in point of personal comfort, over the wretched peasantry that drag out a miserable existence, in want and wo, in many parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland. There the climate is so severe that the poor creatures must not only have bread to eat, which often costs them more than all they can earn, with the greatest care, prudence, and industry, but they must have clothes of some kind; and houses to live in that will keep out the storm. The peasantry of Great Britain must also have fuel to *warm* their houses, or they will freeze to death in winter. But here in Egypt, the real wants of the poor people are fewer, and satisfied much more easily. The delicious water of the Nile, more healthful than London porter, is free to all; and the article of bread, the great thing with the poor in all countries, is about five hundred per cent. cheaper in Egypt than in England. As regards houses, the inhabitants of the upper country have very little need of any at all; and give them a little butter or some kind of oil* to grease

* Wilkinson's Egyptians, vol. iii. 379:—"The custom of anointing the body is usual in hot climates, and contributes greatly to comfort. Even the Greeks, Romans, and others, whose limbs were mostly covered with clothes, and protected from the dryness of the air, found the advantage of its use; and those whose skins were much exposed, in consequence of their scanty clothing, as the Ethiopians and other inhabitants of Africa, felt the necessity of softening and cooling the skin by the application of oils or ointments; and we find the custom most prevalent among the blacks who wear the least covering to their bodies. The highest ambition of the Ethiopians is to obtain a sufficient quantity of grease, whatever kind it may be, to cover their

their backs, to keep the sun from scorching the skin, and they will do very well without clothes. Tobacco is so cheap, that there are few persons in Egypt who do not smoke ; and the Pacha regulates the price of sugar and coffee, and keeps them at such moderate rates, that all drink coffee, and *sweeten* it too. Latterly the Pacha has shown a disposition to give to some few intelligent foreigners an opportunity of becoming proprietors of the rich soil of Egypt, on most advantageous terms. That shows his wisdom and good feeling toward the Egyptians, inasmuch as he receives a more certain and sure return ; and the people themselves, who in all cases go with the soil, are much better off under the administration and government of the Franks, with the supervision of the Pacha, than they can be under the unjust rule and dishonest robbery of the Turkish governors and tax-gatherers. The Pacha, under present circumstances, with his effective and numerous land forces, added to his now respectable navy, presents a power not to be despised. He unites with this powerful army and formidable naval strength, much military skill, and great diplomatic shrewdness ; so that the old fox is not likely to be caught in a trap, or gulled into any measures that will not, in the end, promote his own views, and augment his interest. The probability is, that he will hold on to all that he now has in his possession ; and that he will make pretty good use of it, for the acquisition of more ex-

head, and to run down upon their shoulders, so as to give them a shining gloss, which they delight to display as they walk in the sun."

tensive power and increased dominion. He is a man of genius and great energy of character — carrying out all his great plans of subjugation and improvement, with the most indefatigable zeal and determined perseverance. Few are in his secret councils. To-day, he is in Alexandria; to-morrow, he may be rapidly pushing up the Nile, or stretching over the sea to Candia. No one can anticipate his movements; and it is this astonishing rapidity of locomotion from one place to another, wherever his presence appears to be most dreaded by the vicious, and most needed by the well-disposed part of the community, that surprises the people. From the shores of the Nile to the deepest recesses of the desert, they fear and tremble at his presence. Even the trackless and arid sands of the wilderness, to a great extent, his armies have traversed, and tamed in their course the wild men of those almost inaccessible wastes. Such now is the fear of the formidable power of Mehemet Ali, that in the cheerless desert, where once it would have been almost sure destruction to have ventured unattended by a large military escort, or unaccompanied by an extensive caravan, it is now quite safe, and comparatively comfortable, to travel unattended and alone. Those wild, wandering marauders of the burning sands of Arabia, are now often seen giving up their vile pursuits of plunder and murder, settling down upon the banks of the Nile, and engaging in agriculture and other rational pursuits of civilized life. Such are the good effects of the power and influence of this despotic prince. It is really

astonishing to notice the aptitude of those Arabs for any thing that they earnestly undertake, and with what surprising facility they make themselves masters of any thing that promises to be of service to them. Nothing is more common than to meet Arabs who can readily speak five or six different languages; and, in all matters of farming, house and boat-building, trafficking, carrying produce, merchandise, and travellers from one part of the country to the other, they show themselves exceedingly capable and efficient, and manifest a degree of shrewdness and intelligence that is certainly quite remarkable. The inhabitants of Egypt are completely subjected to the will, and, if you please, whim and caprice of Mehemet Ali. He can take them, in any numbers, without regard to sex, age, or condition, and convert them to any purpose that he chooses; and no one has the power to raise the least obstacle in opposition to his wish. His army is recruited, as occasion requires, from the youth of the country, taken at an early age from their parents, and trained up expressly for the service. To this service, the ignorance and blind prejudices of the people have manifested the strongest aversion. So extraordinary has been this strange antipathy against serving in the Pacha's army, that a most horrid and revolting practice has been introduced to a considerable extent among some of the poor ignorant parents; who, upon the birth of a son, immediately destroy the sight of one eye of the child, by probing it with a hot needle!"

"Can that be true?" said I to Mr. Firkins.

“Nothing can be more so,” replied he; “and to such an alarming extent had this horrid practice prevailed, that at length it attracted the Pacha’s notice. He inquired into the cause of so many cases of partial blindness among his subjects? Upon ascertaining the cause, he at once resolved to do something to counteract the motive that induced these poor creatures thus to destroy the sight of their offspring; and he immediately ordered a regiment of able-bodied, one-eyed soldiers to be raised and drilled for the service. This took them all by surprise; for those who had so cruelly extinguished an eye of each of their children, thought that they were performing an act of humanity toward the maimed offspring—as they supposed, beyond a doubt, that they had exempted them from the military service, for which they have the most intolerable hatred. But they saw themselves completely foiled by the Pacha’s shrewdness, and their half-blind children dragged into the service, and obliged to endure all the dangers and hardships of the camp, notwithstanding what they had already suffered in their most tender years to disqualify them for it, at the cruel hand of parental kindness. Many of them became desperate; and I understand a custom has latterly prevailed to an alarming extent, which is still more abominable; and that is, of extinguishing both eyes of the male infants! This is a dreadful practice, to be sure; but the mothers say that their sons, though blind, will be able to get a living, by carrying water from the Nile, and that they shall always have the pleasure of their society—

whereas, had they not put out their eyes, they would doubtless, in the course of a few months, have been dragged into the service of the Pacha, and they, in all probability, would never see them again. This shows what an ignorant and *blinded* people the Pacha has to deal with. But what method he will adopt to counteract this dreadful and revolting practice, and at the same time avail himself of the services of those blind and miserable beings, is quite impossible to say. Yet it is most probable he will devise some plan that will meet the case, to render abortive the intention of his misguided subjects. Besides putting out one or both eyes of their male children, as is very frequently the case among Egyptian mothers, in order to exempt them from doing military duty, they often save both eyes, and cut off one or two of the first fingers of the right hand, to effect the same end; and that is one reason why we see so many blind, half-blind, and maimed men and boys idling away their time in the streets of Alexandria."

There are other causes which are scarcely less fatal to the eyes, though much less to the fingers. In addition to this barbarous mode of for ever extinguishing one of the most glorious and pleasing senses that the Creator has bestowed upon mankind, there are other annoyances in this peculiar country which operate very unfavourably upon the sight, from which many persons become totally blind at a very early age; and thousands are afflicted with permanent diseases of the eye, which are disgusting and painful even to look at. There is something in the atmos-

phere that weakens and predisposes the eye to disease. Besides, the exceeding power and brightness of the sun's rays in this part of the world irritate and strain the sight of all residents in Egypt, but particularly that of strangers; and that too before they are aware of it. Many have found their vision so weakened, before they were made acquainted with the danger, that they have found it almost impossible to restore it to its original strength and brilliancy; while many other too long neglected cases have resulted in total blindness. Therefore every precaution should be taken to guard against the pernicious effects of the Egyptian climate upon the eye, and to ward off the danger as much as possible, especially when first entering the country. Green veils answer a very good purpose to use when exposed to the sun and dust, and they are much worn, both by men and women—that is, by Europeans, though the natives of the country, I believe, never take the least precaution in regard to this or any other disease. They are the most perfect fatalists in existence. If attacked by any malady, they tamely submit to its operation, and wait the result with a sombre and wretched countenance, and a mind weighed down with despair. They do not think that they themselves have any power over diseases, and they have no physicians; though they will place the most implicit faith in what the Franks will say or do for them when sick; and they take them all for conjurers and doctors.

How different was the case with the ancient Eryp-

tians !* They had numerous and eminent physicians for every disease, and paid the greatest attention to health, and the treatment of their different maladies. Physicians were anciently supported from the public treasury ; though they might receive presents, and sometimes fees, from their patients. There was a regular course of study required of the physician, before he could legally enter upon the practice of his profession, as is the case in all well-regulated communities at the present day. All experiments, or modes of treatment contrary to the established systems of practice, that proved fatal to the patients, were rigorously punished with the execution of the physician. Persuaded that most diseases, proceed from irregularity in diet, the old Egyptians had frequent recourse to fasting and abstinence, as well as slight doses of medicine for the relief of the system.

The physicians were doubtless skilful, and the practice of medicine was under salutary regulations. Their duties, in addition to the treatment of the different maladies of the people, extended to the embalming† of the bodies after death. The medical skill‡ of the ancient physicians of Egypt was known and appreciated in foreign countries ; for Cyrus and Darius are said to have sent to Egypt for physicians. The representations of the practice of medicine upon the tombs of Egypt are, however, very slight, and

* Wilkinson's Egyptians, First Series, vol. iii. p. 389.

† Genesis l. 2: "And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father; and the physicians embalmed Israel."

‡ Wilkinson's Egyptians, First Series, vol. iii. p. 393.

only occur in one or two instances; and these are in the tombs of Beni Hassan.

Egypt was famed for its drugs and medicinal herbs, found in the desert between the Nile and the Red Sea, many of which are still known to the Arabs, though little is understood at the present day of their application anciently. These, however, were not always sovereign remedies: for the balm of Gilead* was recommended with the assurance that it was useless to take many medicines. Physicians were common in the days of the prophets† without doubt; though at the present day there are none in all Syria.

There were also quacks‡ among the ancient, as well as among the modern inhabitants of the world, and the sufferings of the patients under their abominable and unskilful treatment, were many and various. When the skill of the physician was completely baffled, and the patient given over to die, dreams§ were regarded in Egypt with religious reverence; and the prayers of the devout were often rewarded by the gods with an indication of the remedies their sufferings required. Dreams and magic, however, were a last resource, and only resorted to when all other remedies had failed of success. Similar feelings of superstition induced them to offer ex-votos in their temples for the same purpose.

* Jeremiah viii. 22.

† Ibid. — : “Is there no balm in Gilead? is there no *physician* there?”

‡ Job xiii. 4: “But ye are forgers of lies, ye are all physicians of no value.”

Mark v. 26: “And had suffered many things of many physicians; and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse.”

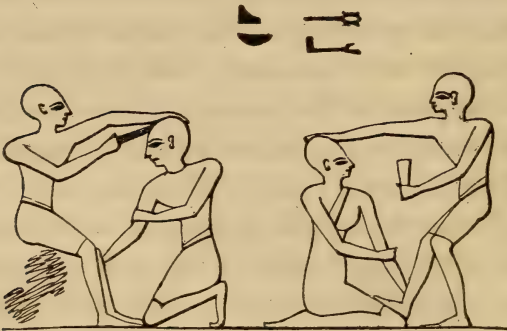
§ Wilkinson's Egyptians, First Series, iii. 394.

These offerings were of various descriptions. Many promised a certain sum for the maintenance of the sacred animals belonging to the deity, whose interposition they had invoked ; which, in the case of the children, was decided by weighing a certain portion of the hair of the head, with all, or half, or a third, shaved expressly for the purpose ; and as soon as the cure had been effected, they accomplished their vows, by giving an equal amount of silver to the curators.

These persons often visited different parts of the country, bearing the banners of their respective deities ; and the peasantry, through their credulity, being often induced to solicit their aid, and to barter the uncertain assistance of the god, for the real rewards lavished upon his artful servants, much money was collected by them. So profitable was this imposition, that neither the simplicity of Islam, nor the change of religion has been able to abolish the custom ; and the guardians of the sheiks' tombs in like manner send their emissaries with flags and drums to different parts of the country, to levy contributions from the credulous, in return for the promised assistance of their patron saint. When the cure was effected, it was the custom to suspend a model of the restored part, in the temple of the god whose interposition had been solicited. This is likewise the custom in the sheiks' tombs of modern Egypt ; in the Roman Catholic churches in Italy ; and in other churches in various parts of Europe ; and wooden ears, eyes, and distorted limbs are suspended about

the churches dedicated to the patron saint, as memorials of their gratitude and superstition.

“Indeed,” says Mr. Wilkinson, “the study of medicine and surgery appears to have commenced at a very early period in Egypt, since Athothes, the second king of the country, is stated to have written upon the subject of anatomy; and the schools of Alexandria continued, till a late period, to enjoy the reputation, and display the skill they had inherited from their predecessors. Hermes was said to have written six books upon medicine, the first of which related to anatomy; and the various recipes, known to have been beneficial, were recorded with their peculiar cases, in the memoirs of physic, inscribed among the laws which were deposited in the principal temple of the place, as at Memphis, in that of Pthah, or Vulcan.”*



PHYSICIANS OF EGYPT.

* Wilkinson's Egyptians, First Series, iii. 396.

CHAPTER XIV.

Unpleasant News. — Disappointment. — Reflections. — Unpropitious Visit. — Mutual Surprise. — “Sudden, Serious Illness” of a Consul not so Serious as was apprehended. — Embarrassing Interview. — Animated Conversation of Mr. Firkins and Mr. O’Statten abruptly terminated. — Brilliant Party of Pleasure. — Mr. Firkins in a Rage. — Ride to the Palace of Mehemet Ali. — Way to make an Impression. — Palace and Guards of the Pacha. — Officers of State. — Dress and Address of Mehemet Ali.

WHILE we were taking our coffee the next morning, and throwing out some conjectures with regard to what would be the proper dress to wear, and the etiquette to be observed, in our audience with the Pacha—which, according to the promise of our friend the Dane, was arranged to take place that day—we were greatly pained at the receipt of a note, by the hand of a messenger, stating that the Danish gentleman “had been taken suddenly *very seriously ill*; and that he would not be able to do himself the honour of presenting us to the Pacha, according to the arrangement of yesterday.”

“Suddenly seriously ill!” said the doctor, as he held the note in his hand; “he must be down with the plague!”

“I hope not,” said I, “but I am really grieved to hear that this fine gentlemanly man is indisposed; he appeared so very affable and friendly to us yesterday, and so desirous to do something for our gratification during our short stay in the city, that I have begun to feel a deep interest in the gentleman, and I am very sorry to hear this intelligence of his *sudden, serious* indisposition.”

What seemed to add not a little to our alarm, and to confirm more strongly the circumstance of his “*serious illness*,” was, that the note was not written by the gentleman himself, but by another person; thereby carrying the idea upon the face of it, that his “*sudden illness*” was indeed so “*serious*” that he was unable to write; and, possibly, far gone with some of those sudden and awful diseases so prevalent in the East.

The doctor observed, that in Egypt, the operation of “*sudden, serious*” diseases was generally very rapid in progress; insomuch, that very often persons in equally good health as the acting American consul appeared to be yesterday, have been laid in their graves ere twenty-four hours had elapsed thereafter.

“How very true it is,” said Mrs. C., “that ‘in the midst of life we are in death!’ No one knows what an hour may bring forth; health is no security against ‘*sudden*’ disease, the horrors of death, and the cheerless abode of the grave! How insignificant and vain are all earthly prospects, and how very suddenly may their brightest promise be blasted and withered for ever! Man has verily but a few days to live, and

is full of sorrow ; blooming fresh and beautiful to-day, and to-morrow, perhaps, the places that once knew him will know him never more !”

“ Nothing,” rejoined the doctor, “ can be more true ; and it behooves us all to be also ready. We are in a strange land, a land where the mysterious feet of sudden and fearful diseases walk in darkness and waste at noonday. No man, however cautious, is secure against the sudden and fearful attacks of the strange diseases peculiar to this climate and country. Many are the victims that have fallen a sacrifice to them in these desolate, wild, and inhospitable wastes.”

“ True,” said I ; “ the present is indeed all we can call our own, and happy will it be for us if we improve it aright. There are, however, certain duties that we owe to our fellow-men, under all circumstances of this existence ; and none, perhaps, are more sacred, or strictly enjoined, than those of visiting and ministering to our friends and neighbours in their sicknesses and afflictions. I do not know that we can be of the least service in the world to this Danish gentleman, taken so ‘ *suddenly and seriously ill* ;’ but we can at least go over to his palace and inquire after the state of his health, and ascertain some particulars, perhaps, in regard to the nature of his disease — which, after all, I am in hopes is not so *serious* as is apprehended.”

“ Very good,” said the doctor ; “ we can do no less than to call at his office, and inquire how he is.”

We accordingly mounted the donkeys which our valiant dragoman had already saddled at the door, and rode over to the palace of the American consulate.

The feather-edge of the new dragoman's grit having been worn off a little, in his quarrels with the donkey-boys, and his feats of valour among the tombs, in our excursion to Pompey's Pillar the day previous, he was more tranquil and mild in his deportment and bearing toward those needful accompaniments to a donkey-ride on this occasion; so that, with the exception of a slight scuffle and a few cuts of the corbash, at starting, nothing took place to interrupt our meditations and serious apprehension for the safety and welfare of our new and valued friend, until we arrived in front of his palace.

Not expecting to have the pleasure, on that day, of meeting the Danish gentleman, after whose health we felt such a natural and anxious solicitude, if indeed we were ever to see him again on this side the grave (for *sudden, serious illness*, in Egypt, too frequently, alas! ends in sudden death)—we hurried up stairs, and entered the office, without previously sending in our names, as we had done the day before, and as we should have done on this occasion, had it been an ordinary case, or with the least expectation of finding the presiding genius of the American consulate in his "official seat." Judge, therefore, our mutual surprise, at seeing our new friend, about whom we had made ourselves serious over our breakfast, and conjured up so many unhappy forebodings,

seated at his desk, with his goose-quill behind his ear, in as perfect health, apparently, as ever fell to the lot of a human being to enjoy!

In our surprise and joy to see this gentleman so far removed from the danger that we had imagined him to be in from the tenor of the note, we advanced and saluted him in the most cordial manner. It seemed like welcoming an estimable being from the jaws of death—from the sorrows of the tomb—and restoring him to the charms and blessings of life. For the moment, the feeling that rushed through our bosoms might not be unlike that glow of tenderness that quickened the pulsations of the parent's heart at the return of the prodigal son, when the fatted calf was killed, and music and dancing gladdened the hearts of the young; and festivity and joy reigned throughout the paternal mansion. We would almost say, that, although "thou wert lost, thou art found again; you are safe, and we rejoice that our idle apprehensions were unfounded."

After the first salutation, and the impulses of the moment had passed, we found that our friend did not appreciate our emotions at all. He seemed to be embarrassed; said nothing about his influence with the Pacha, or of our introduction to him; tried to turn the conversation upon the favourable change of the weather, and other general subjects; but in so uneasy a style, as to render it impossible for him to get on without awkwardness; and his smile seemed to be as embarrassing to him as any thing else. It did not fit his face at all, the features of which had so changed,

that it was apparently quite out of his power to bring it into a controllable shape. He was best at grave subjects, and his words were few. He frequently changed his position; drew himself up to his full length in his chair, and then suddenly let himself down almost to the floor: first throwing one leg over the other, and turning half way round, and then quickly changing his position, he swung round on the other side; thrust his fingers through his hair, blew his nose, and was at a loss what next to say or do.

By this time we came to a right understanding of the case, and saw through the whole mystery. It was getting more and more embarrassing for us all, every moment; and, to relieve our new friend and ourselves from the agonies of a prolonged interview, we took leave of him, satisfied that all the fair promises of the day before were made, like pie-crust, only to be broken; and that his gracious words, mellow smiles, and all the soft blandishments of his compliments, were "more for ornament than use."

As we were to leave Alexandria in a few days afterward, we did not think it best to inquire after the acting American consul's health again; nor have we had the pleasure of seeing him from that day to this.

When we came down from the presence-chamber of the American consulate, we saw Mr. Firkins and Mr. O'Statten standing a little way from the Dane's palace, conversing in a very energetic manner, and in a tone of voice that might have been heard at the distance of many rods in all directions. From the

elevated tone of their conversation, I judged it was no very confidential chit-chat; and that it would be no breach of politeness to walk up and inquire after their health and the news of the day. I accordingly saluted them, and was received in a cordial manner. After the usual salutations and inquiries, they resumed the thread of their discourse, and went on, reflecting in the severest terms upon the characters of all the Wrinklebottoms, Mr. Sneezebiter, Mr. O'Screensbury, the Rev. Mr. Dunderblix, Sir Danbury Rimtaper and his three sisters the Misses Rimtaper, and twenty other names that I had never heard of before, all of whom they represented as the very quintessence and oil of pride, self-conceit, vulgarity, ignorance, and meanness.

It seemed that all these personages had been making very free with the sumptuous dinners and fine old port and sherry of Mr. Firkins, and had done very little business with him in other respects. This was a breach of good breeding and manly feeling, which Mr. Firkins and his vicegerent Mr. O'Statten could not pass over in silence. Such was their style of discussing the virtues and claims to title and consequence of these English gentlemen and ladies, that I was really shocked that Mr. Firkins should have condescended to associate with such disreputable characters in any way; and moreover that he should have invited them to his house, introduced them to Mrs. Firkins, and then, day after day, treated them with the greatest civility, and in the most cordial manner.

“What,” thought I, “can all this mean? These people can be none other than disreputable, unworthy folks, whose real characters Mr. Firkins has just found out, and it is no wonder that he is indignant at the gross imposition; but I am sure there is an end now to all further intercourse, for certainly Mr. Firkins will have nothing to say to them again, nor Mr. O’Statten either.”

Just at that moment, who should emerge from the street near the consul’s palace, and turn into the great European Square near the spot where we then stood, and mounted on donkeys, with several armed janizaries, and a large train of Arab servants and donkey-drivers, but all the Wrinklebottoms, Mr. O’Screensbury, and one or two other English gentlemen with large blue stocks, breast-pins, straw hats, and linen great-coats, whom I did not know, and had never before seen! Their sudden apparition, however, put a stop to the spirited comments of Mr. Firkins and Mr. O’Statten, who immediately advanced toward the party with their hats raised, bowing, scraping, and letting out their good-natured salutations and wishes, mingled profusely with the most fascinating smiles and respectful looks, attitudes, and gestures, that the human face and figure can well be worked into!

I did not know how to account for conduct so singular. They all appeared to be delighted to see each other, and the Misses Wrinklebottom looked more charming than ever—really very fresh and blooming—insomuch that Mr. O’Statten was taken

all aback by their bewitching ogles and smiles; and he ordered another donkey, joined the party, and rode off to point out to them more of the lions of the town.

Mr. Firkins stood in the square, with his hat off, bowing and waving adieus, until the long, brilliant, and happy party had got almost out of sight, when he suddenly turned round, pulled his hat deeply over his head, and began to curse and swear in the most bitter manner. He was in a dreadful rage with all the party, and talked as bad about Mr. O'Statten as any of the rest of them.

I could not help thinking that there is no accounting for the whims and oddities of the world. Here is Mr. Firkins, all smiles and affability one moment, and all anger and chagrin the next; and all about the same thing. Either these English ladies and gentlemen must be an abominable set, or they are not so bad as they are represented to be; but after what has taken place this morning, what can one think of Mr. Firkins and Mr. O'Statten?

As I was ruminating upon this subject, I drew off from Mr. Firkins, who still continued scolding and swearing about the Wrinklebottoms, the Rev. Mr. Dunderblix, Mr. O'Statten, and many others, whom he denounced most cordially, all in a heap, as a set of rascals; then taking each name separately, he consigned it to a deep and awful destination, loaded with the most violent and horrid execrations that I ever heard uttered by human lips! It was really an awful scene.

We mounted the donkeys, and the noise of our dragoman, getting the boys in trim to suit his taste in these matters, had the effect to arouse Mr. Firkins from his revery among the infernal regions, and to notice our intended departure. Upon which he lightened his hat a little from his brow, left off cursing and swearing, and, approaching us with a smile, wanted to know if we had seen the Pacha? We, of course, answered in the negative.

“What,” said he, “are you going to leave Alexandria without seeing the Pacha?”

We replied that our time was necessarily limited, and we were to depart for the upper country so soon, that we must forego the pleasure at present, in hopes that his Highness might find it necessary to visit Cairo during the winter—when, perhaps, it might be our good fortune to get a glimpse of him in that city; but under present circumstances, we did not think it probable that we should be able to see him in Alexandria.

“Why,” said Mr. Firkins, “it is the easiest thing in the world to see the Pacha; and, if you leave this city without seeing him, you will regret it all the days of your lives.”

“But how is it to be accomplished?” I asked; “we depart in a day or two, and there is in the mean time no public fête in which his Highness will appear; therefore I cannot imagine how it is possible for us to get a look at him.”

“True,” said Mr. Firkins, “but I can bring it about, notwithstanding. I sometimes present strangers to

the Pacha myself, but it is only when the consuls refuse to present their countrymen, that I interfere in the business; and in such cases, when asked, I always obtain an audience of his Highness, and present them."

We kept very quiet about the "*sudden, serious illness*" of our friend the Dane; nor did we say any thing about his strong desire to do something for us, to render our short stay in Alexandria more agreeable. We thought it better to pass over that business as lightly as possible; for the Dane was now out of danger, and we were pretty sure that he would not be "*taken suddenly very seriously ill*" on our account again, if we were never to see the Pacha till the final adjustment of the eastern question.

So we let Mr. Firkins run on with the old story of his influence and intimacy with the Pacha, and the frequency and confidence of his interviews with his Highness at the palace; and how he was in all the state secrets and intrigues of the court; and foretold coming events with such accuracy, that when he was not taken for a prophet, he was at least put down as a fortune-teller and very skilful conjurer. We had heard this egotistical, puffy narrative at least twenty times before, and began to think that it had lost much of its freshness and all the charms of novelty. We supposed he would run out of that kind of ware at last, and after a while come down upon the only thing that we cared much about—an opportunity to see the Pacha. We sat on our donkeys, and patiently listened to Mr. Firkins till he had fairly

got through the whole story from beginning to end, telling some parts of it two or three times over; and he had actually commenced it anew, with a view, as we supposed, of going over the whole ground again, with suitable revisions, comments, and emendations, copious enough to consume the day.

I looked the doctor in the face at this juncture of our affairs, and observed that his nerves were suffering considerably on account of future prospects; and, as we exchanged looks, the brave dragoman came to our rescue amid an uproarious quarrel with the donkey-boys, which completely broke in upon Mr. Firkins's second, revised, and emended edition, and spared us the pain of listening to it, or of the impoliteness of interrupting him, with a view of turning the conversation upon other subjects.

Seeing a favourable opportunity to slip in a word, I did not fail to improve it; and again asked Mr. Firkins how we were to get a glimpse of the Pacha?

"O, nothing easier," replied Mr. Firkins; "wait a moment, until I order my donkey and a janizary or two from the English consulate, and I will take you down to the Pacha's palace directly."

He hurried off to give the necessary directions, and in a few moments rode up to us, mounted on a fine donkey, with a good English saddle, and silver ornamented bridle, with little bits of red streamers floating from the headstall, which set off the long ears of his animal, and gave the *tout ensemble* a very cheerful and picturesque appearance. Mr. Firkins's feet were stuck deep into a large pair of silver-plated

stirrups, which nearly touched the ground, and were rather a drawback upon his personal attraction; otherwise he would have appeared to very good advantage. The janizaries coming up, with their girdles stuffed with loaded pistols, long Turkish sabres dangling at their sides, high silver-mounted staves, and richly-embroidered dresses, of red, blue, and white colours, ornamented with gold lace, and set off with ample turbans, — and, placing themselves at the head of our little cavalcade, we began to move down toward the Pacha's palace.

“What is he about?” said the doctor to me in an under tone of voice, as we fell a little in the rear of Mr. Firkins; who, with a tall, picturesquely-dressed janizary on each side of him, was moving on with great apparent self-satisfaction — “Mr. Firkins is not intending to attempt a presentation, surely?”

“Really,” said I, “I am quite at a loss to determine. It is better, however, I think, to follow his directions in the matter, and see what will come of it. I don't think there is much danger of any '*sudden, serious illness*' on the part of Mr. Firkins, for he seems to be too well pleased with his own appearance to stop short of the palace, I am sure; and when there, it is of course quite impossible to tell, at this distance, what turn things will take.”

Thus we proceeded on through the thickest part of the town, while the natives gazed at us with wonder. Mr. Firkins issued his orders in a loud and commanding tone to his janizaries, at short intervals, to clear the way of the rabble before us; which, upon

a threatening display of the canes of the janizaries, scattered in all directions.

We rode along in this formal and stately order, and finally reached the palace without accident, or even a quarrel between the dragoman and donkey-boys. The fact is, the fine appearance of the janizaries, from the English consulate, who were leading off the cavalcade, produced the most mortifying effect upon Selim. He rather sought the friendly alliance of the donkey-boys, than their enmity; and endeavoured to atone for his former cruelty toward them, by tender looks and good-natured actions. But he had little or nothing to say; and when he looked forward to the elevated position of the janizaries, it was evidently with feelings of bitter jealousy.

We arrived in front of the Pacha's palace, which stands quite upon the water's edge, overlooking the harbour, much of the town, and the Isle of Pharos; and found it full of soldiers and mounted guards, dressed in the oriental costume. They were armed to the teeth, and their long mustachios gave them a fierce and savage appearance.

Mr. Firkins boldly wheeled round to the left, and dashed up to the broad steps of the palace, with a flourish of janizaries' canes and John-Bull blustering, that brought the eyes of every person in the courtyard instantly upon us. This seemed to be exceedingly gratifying to Mr. Firkins, who, in common with most of his countrymen, imagined that when they have blustered about sufficiently to attract the public gaze, an important point is gained; and that they are

then in a fair way to make an impression. We thought so too; and I have seldom seen an Englishman succeed in this, his favourite policy, more effectually. He possessed a wonderful tact in all that kind of flourish, insomuch that I will be bound to say, he would not remain an hour in any large town in Europe, or any where else, without becoming the theme of general remark.

We entered a large hall, crowded with armed guards and janizaries, who looked vicious enough to carry into full effect the most deadly and diabolical commands that ever came from the polluted lips of tyranny in any age or country. These we found, as well as numerous servants, hurrying through the rooms, with coffee, pipes, and sherbet, which they were carrying into the state apartments of the palace. We next came into a large, well-lighted room, with high walls, painted in arabesque, hung with crimson curtains, fitted up with high, broad divans, and looking out upon the sea. This was full of well-dressed persons, mostly in the Turkish habit, armed, and conversing with great animation, as they promenaded from one end of the room to the other. We mingled with them, and began to walk up and down the room too; and Mr. Firkins opened into a bold and animated strain of egotism, in a sufficiently elevated key to notify all present that there were others in the room beside themselves—who expected and wished to be noticed.

When we had ascended about half the distance through this great room, we came to large folding

doors, opening on the right into a well-furnished apartment, hung with crimson, and fitted up with divans, in which stood the Pacha of Egypt, his great officers of state, and some twenty other individuals, engaged in conversation.

“There, then,” said Mr. Firkins, in a hushed tone of voice, “there is my old friend the Pacha: ain’t he a fine-looking old chap?”

“Indeed he is,” said I. “And how old is he?”

“Why,” replied Mr. F., “he is seventy-one years old this winter; he was telling me his age the last time I had a chat with him, and said that he, and the Duke of Wellington, and Napoleon Bonaparte were born in the same year. I told him that he was the best and most talented man of the three.”

“Did you?” asked the doctor; “and what reply did his Highness make to that?”

“O, he told one of the servants to renew the tobacco in my pipe; called for more coffee; and said, laughingly, ‘That is just your way, Mr. Firkins—but I know my own strength, and must bring my capacity down to my means.’ We then continued to converse about the affairs of the East, until a late hour. In the course of this conversation, he told me every thing about his future plans, and the flattering promises of France. The fact is, the Pacha, old as he is, expects to sit on the throne of Turkey before he dies; and no man in the East is so worthy, or could be as powerful there. This, however, is strictly between ourselves, and must be kept a profound secret; it’s all under the rose—but time is big with eventual-

ties—and will produce wondrous changes among the nations of the East.”

“Most probably,” replied the doctor. “But who is that gentleman with whom the Pacha is now conversing?”

“That,” returned Mr. Firkins, “is his secretary of state—a prodigiously clever man—exceedingly intelligent, and as full of diplomatic intrigue and political shrewdness as old Talleyrand was in his best days.”

“High commendation, that,” said I, “for political preferment; and has he never been any thing more than the Pacha’s secretary of state?”

“Never,” replied Mr. Firkins; “but when the Pacha comes to the throne of Turkey, he will be sent out as ambassador to England; and they will then find, at the court of St. James, that they have somebody among them that is as deep in the black art as any, even the best of her Majesty’s ministers at home, or even Satan’s favourite grandson, the English ambassador at Constantinople.”

Thus Mr. Firkins went on, naming one great character after another of those that were about the person of the Pacha, concerning all of whom he had something to say in his extravagant style; but he pronounced them all “prodigiously clever” men in their way.

The Pacha changed his position, and moved into a part of the room sufficiently near where we stood, to enable us to see the expression of his face and eyes, and to give us a perfect impression of his form and general personal appearance.

From the exaggerated accounts of the Pacha's character which I had seen published in the English papers, and elsewhere, I expected to look upon a "bloodthirsty," ferocious being, more resembling some cruel monster than a comely and interesting prince. Our surprise, therefore, on seeing in the Pacha a fine, erect, and graceful form, with a mild, conciliating expression of countenance, was no less remarkable than agreeable.

He is a man something less than six feet in height, well and compactly built, yet rather slight, with an intelligent and well-defined cast of countenance—high forehead, mild, dark, and expressive, though penetrating eyes, and a long flowing beard, silky and soft as down, and as white as the drifting snow.

He had on a red oriental cap, red Turkish shoes, white stockings, blue pantaloons, and the plain blue and laced coat worn by the officers of the Turkish navy.

His movements and gestures were easy and graceful, and his manner was that of a man long accustomed to the world.

He would be noticed, on account of his august appearance in any part of Christendom; although few men could exhibit more apparent modesty or propriety of manners than pervaded the whole bearing and movements of the Pacha on that occasion. He appeared like a mild, intelligent, sensible, well-disposed man, bent upon doing good rather than evil in his day and generation; and who, under other

circumstances, might not be unfit to sit upon the most civilized throne in Europe.

Our impressions of the general character of the Pacha were decidedly favourable, and I was glad that we had an opportunity of seeing him at all; although it appeared somewhat like looking at a "lion" through bolts and bars. Yet, after the "*sudden, serious illness*" of our estimable friend the Dane, it was the only door left open through which we might *decently* look into the "lion's den." In this there was no impropriety, and it was a privilege, as we afterwards discovered, that was free to every body, although we at the time did not know it. There were no questions asked by any one when we went in or came out of the Pacha's palace; and there was an unrestrained and steady stream of persons circulating through the entrance, as much at home, and as easy in their bearing, as country-people going out of and into the village tavern.

We continued to promenade the long room, with a crowd of others, until the divan broke up; when the Pacha went to dine on board, with the officers of the fleet, and many other gentlemen of distinction. A hundred guns sent forth their fire and smoke; music filled the air; and the fallen crescent of the Prophet streamed from every spar. The scene was grand and imposing.

CHAPTER XV.

Return from the Palace. — Mr. Firkins a Lion among the Rabble. — Scene in the Bazar of Alexandria. — Turkish and Egyptian Merchants. — Mode of Dealing. — Shopping in Turkey a troublesome Business. — Tricks upon Strangers. — Funeral Procession.

THE public business of the day being over, and the Pacha having gone to his dinner without inviting his intimate friend Mr. Firkins, which was certainly a very great oversight, we prepared to return to the hotel.

We mounted our quadrupeds, with considerable flourish and form on the part of Mr. Firkins and his fine-looking janizaries, and turned out of the grand court of the palace, without accident or much difficulty. We retraced our steps for some distance, when, at the suggestion of Mr. Firkins, and under his direction, we wheeled off to the right, and passed through a sombre and gloomy part of the town, which exhibited new and strange scenes in every direction. We witnessed a state of wretchedness among the people that surpasses all power of description, and can never be adequately sketched by the most fertile pencil. Mr. Firkins kindly pointed out to us every thing that struck him as being at all worthy of

remark; and, whenever we approached near to a group of the wretched beings that vegetated in that loathsome part of the town, he would rein up his donkey, call to his janizaries, in a loud and commanding voice, to clear the rabble out of the street, and direct our attention to some object which he affected to think remarkable, whether it was really worth noticing or not. This naturally attracted the gaze of the spectators, and gave an appearance of commendable consistency to the character of Mr. Firkins. In fact, he seemed to feel nearly as much pleasure in playing the "lion" among those miserable, squalid, half-naked fellahs, miring in the mud and dirt of that obscure and dismal corner of Alexandria, as when in the grand court of the Pacha's palace, among the glistening arms and gay uniforms of the Pacha's troops, — or even in the great room, gazing at the Viceroy of Egypt, and mingling with crowds of officers and other men who seemed to be at home in the presence of kings and princes.

We wound slowly along through this dark and benighted region, and at last came out into the bazar; our entrance to which was attended with a sufficient display of Mr. Firkins's voice, and janizary-interference with the crowds that were wedged into the little, narrow, muddy passage-ways, to bring us under the inquisitive gaze of all the Turkish merchants, who took their pipes from their mouths, and leaned out of their small box-kind of shops, to look at our blustering little cavalcade with astonishment, while the trembling natives, shivering half-leg deep in mud,

seemed desirous to shrink into total annihilation. The more they attempted to recede before the pompous advances of Mr. Firkins and his relentless janizaries, the more noisy and imperious he was in his commands to "clear the way! clear the rabble away! clear the streets of this filth and rubbish! let us not be impeded in our course! make room for the donkeys!" etc. It was really frightful to witness the ravages and waste that these men made in their progress through the bazar; among a set of people, too, who had committed no offence, but who had merely come there to gratify an idle curiosity—the same motive that had conducted us thither; or perhaps to purchase a few *paras'* worth of some kind of food, to keep soul and body from absolute dissolution!

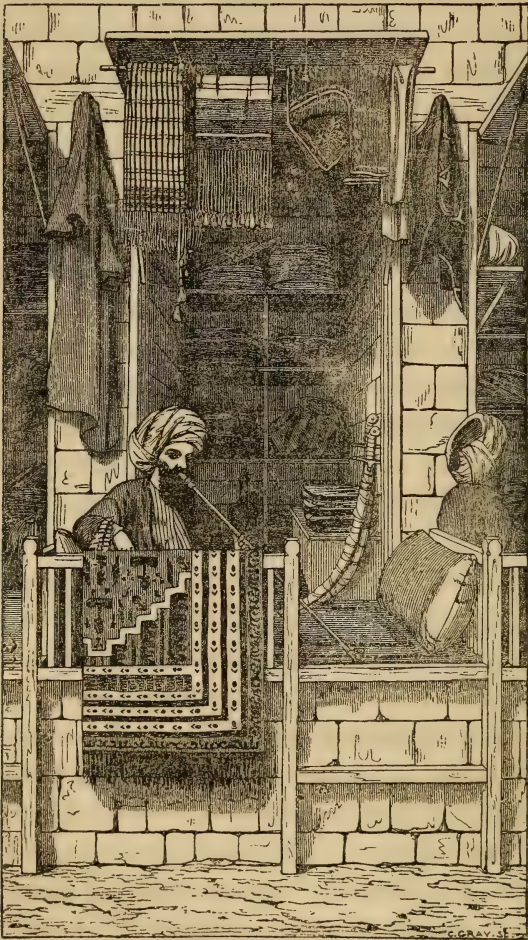
The vast multitude of suffering and degraded beings that hang on to a wretched existence in the city of the Ptolemies, have so long shrunk beneath the sway of foreign oppression—so long withered like an autumn leaf under the cruel hand of tyranny and despotism, that they no longer recognise any rights as existing in themselves;—they timidly submit to all sorts of imposition and insult, as well from foreigners and strangers in their land, as from the barbarous Turks themselves, who hold them in perpetual bondage.

This was a scene perfectly unique, novel, and exciting, beyond any thing that I have ever seen before in the way of business. The bazars of Alexandria are mostly skirting little narrow, muddy, unpaved

passage-ways, so small and contracted as to render it impossible to pass a carriage through them ; a thing, indeed, which is never attempted. It is not usual even to ride on horseback or on donkeys in the bazars ; though when we were in Alexandria, it would have been quite out of the question to have passed dry-shod in any other manner than mounted, and even then, the little low animals slumped into the mud so much, that one's feet were not always clear of the mire and water.

The passages of the bazars are generally covered over with a flat roof of loose boards or matting, extending from the tops of the buildings on either side. This covering merely affords a shade and protection against the piercing rays of the sun, without even an apology for a shelter from the drenching rain ; consequently, when the rains come, the water pours along these little narrow ways, which have no drainage or pavement, and are constantly under the poaching tread of a multitude of hoofs and human feet, until the veriest slough or mudhole in a sunken marsh or swamp can hardly be worse, or more difficult and disagreeable to pass through. Yet, bad and miry as they really are, they are crowded to suffocation by an almost infinite multitude of wretched beings, splashing through the mud, a great part of whom appear to be actuated by no motive or view, other than to mingle with the throng, and idle away their time in listless, unmeaning conversation, and loud, vacant laughter. Over this sink and corrupt stew of filth, dung, mire, and misery, the cross-legged Turks sit from

day to day, and from year to year, in opposite stalls, so near together that they might light their pipes in the fire of each other's *mustubeh*, without raising themselves from the floor of their own little box-like dens of Turkish gimcracks, drugs, gewgaws, and scents.



AN EGYPTIAN MERCHANT.

These stalls or shops are formed from a kind of recess, opening out in its whole extent upon the passage-way, with a raised floor about three or four feet from the ground, upon which the merchant sits, on a mat, with a long pipe in his hand, and transacts the important business of his establishment. The shop, or *dookkan*, as it is called, is seldom more capacious than a small-sized pantry, and looks about as elegant as a countryman's potato-bin fitted up with shelves. It rarely contains more goods than a man could carry on his back, and these are not always worth taking as a gift. Still, dignified as an orang-outang, and patient as a stagnant pool, the Turk sits and smokes his days away over this little mess of worthless trash, quite satisfied with the important part that he is playing in the world's mysterious drama;—believing sincerely in the infallibility of the Prophet—that they are faithfully working out the destiny of their existence upon earth, and that they are to be blessed in another world for the good they have done in this. There are of course exceptions to this picture; and some of those rude-looking *dookkans* contain valuable and useful articles. As a general thing, however, it struck me as being quite otherwise. Perhaps they have an object in appearing thus poor, and showing little in their shops; lest, were they to present a more affluent aspect, some plausible pretext might be devised by those in authority for disposing of the proprietor, and turning over his effects to the account of government. That may or may not be the case: at any rate, there they

sit, the turbaned merchants of Alexandria, in those little stived-up, confined boxes (for they can hardly be dignified by the name of shops), and dispose of their wares, write, cook, eat, drink, smoke, and lie down and sleep; seldom leaving these places of business, except to say their prayers in the mosques at noon or on Friday. They are often seen at their devotions in their dookkans. The merchant generally sits quite in the front part of his little stall, smoking, with his shoes off and feet curled up, a mat under him, and a large pillow, stuffed with cotton, at his back, and apparently regardless of every thing else.

Ordinary customers drive a bargain with the shopman standing in front of the stall; while old, established "patrons of the house," or persons of better appearance, are invited to take a place beside the merchant on the mat; and if they make purchases to any amount, they are treated to a pipe and a cup of coffee. But to "go shopping" in a Turkish town, with a view of purchasing any thing, is generally a higgling, arduous, disagreeable business.

The merchant usually asks full twice the sum that he is very willing, in the end, to take; nor is he to be brought down from this exorbitant position at once. Consequently, the lower classes, in their little mercantile transactions, wage a war of words, and appear to be just on the verge of appealing to bloody noses to enforce their arguments.

Those who prefer to manage their business transactions in a more quiet way, sit down deliberately,

smoking one pipe-full after another, sipping their coffee, conversing about the news of the day, and matters and things in general, occasionally touching upon the real object of their visit, but always with that apparent indifference and carelessness which indicate that their offer, though not at first equal to a third of the price demanded, is their ultimatum. The Turkish merchant, no less wary, and used to the business and tricks of his profession, exhibits great tact, shrewdness, and caution in his advances. As one party gives way, the other yields a little, until at last, after much useless conversation, much smoking, and considerable waste of time and patience, besides some wear and tear of conscience,—the parties clinch the bargain.

This deliberate mode of transacting business with the people of the East, who appear to have so much time upon their hands that it is valueless, may answer very well indeed for mere pastime or amusement. But to a Yankee, who would wish to travel through the world like a rocket, and live two or three lives in one, it certainly is not without its inconvenience and annoyance.

As a general thing, the servant of the customer expects and receives a trifling present from the shopkeeper; and if it is not voluntarily handed over, he knows the value of his situation and the custom of the East too well to have any scruples about demanding it. Whereas a stranger, unacquainted with the language of the country, makes his appearance accompanied by a professed interpreter. Most com-

monly the first conversation that takes place is — “I have brought you a customer,” says the interpreter, “and I must have a per centage upon all he purchases: and you must set your prices with that understanding.”

The preliminaries being settled, they proceed to fleece the duck between them, and divide the feathers at a more convenient season. To give the affair more the appearance of close bargaining on both sides, and general satisfaction to the customer, and above all to convince him beyond a doubt that he has a faithful and an honest friend in the person of the interpreter, the merchant and the dragoman get into a quarrel. The dragoman threatens to leave him if he does not come down in his prices, and declares that he will never come near his shop again. That elevated tone usually produces a trifling abatement, whereupon a bargain is concluded, more to the advantage of the two wolves than the lamb.

Few words only are really necessary in making bargains. The merchant knows at once how much he intends to receive for whatever he has to sell. Therefore the customer, if he knows the money of Egypt, and the name of the article that he seeks, will get along much more expeditiously alone than with an interpreter. Besides, he will make a considerable saving in dragoman-fees and the per centage which he almost invariably demands on the amount of the purchase.

This is not all. The stranger will have the satisfaction to know, that although he may have been

slightly taken in by the tradesman, it is a single shave, and he has not been fleeced by his servant.

When a traveller undertakes the disagreeable and difficult business of shopping in a Turkish town, unaccompanied by an interpreter, the shopman naturally concludes that he knows something of the prices of the articles which he wishes to purchase ; besides, they suppose him sufficiently acquainted with the ways and manners of the country, to detect gross imposition ; consequently they will be less likely to make a martyr of him, than when found under the protection of a swindler, in the garb of an avowed faithful companion, who knows the language and customs of the Egyptians, and is determined to avail himself of all their advantages.

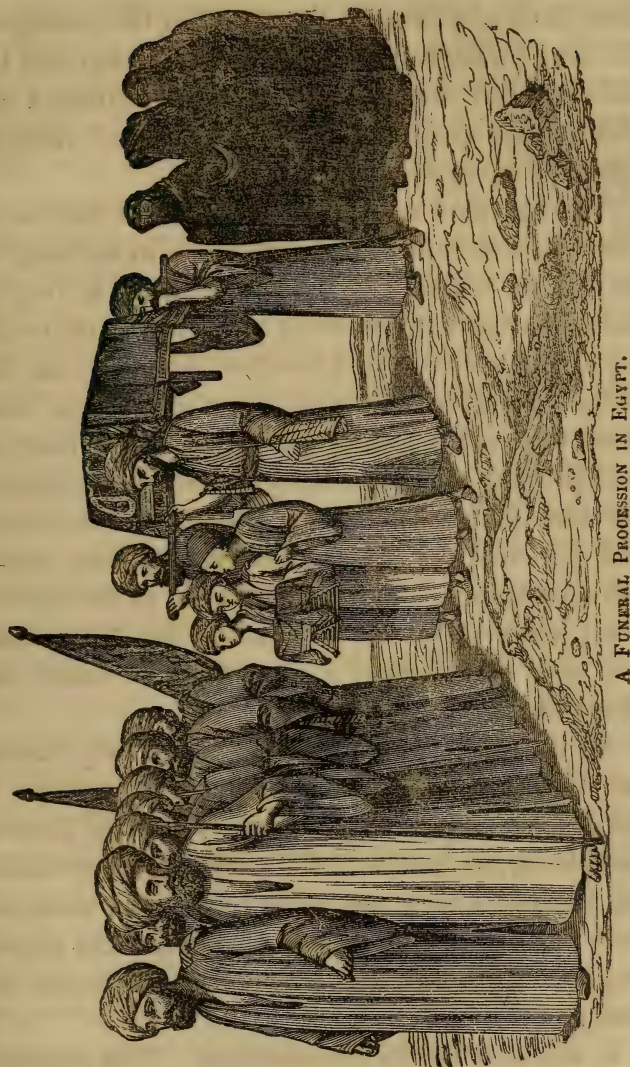
In Constantinople, Cairo, Smyrna, Jerusalem, and most other Turkish towns of any importance that I have visited, the different commodities of the merchants are severally confined to certain sections of the bazar, or certain streets, which are frequently known by the name of the articles exposed there for sale. But in the bazar of Alexandria, there were tinkers, blacksmiths, watch-makers, jewellers, turners, tinmen, tailors, shoemakers, pipe-sellers, oilmen, hosiers, cap-sellers, gunsmiths, bankers, confectioners, money-changers, barbers, head-dressers, cooks, and fish-mongers, all within speaking distance of each other, jumbled and mixed up together, with the most motley, disgusting rabble of half-clad wretches, splashing along through the mud, mumbling and mutter-

ing the most confused and hideously-sounding jargon imaginable.

As if to heighten and render this picture still more impressive and awful, the dead body of a person on the way to the grave was brought along just at the time that we were urging our difficult passage through the dense crowd, making confusion more confused, and adding terror to a scene already terrific.

The funeral procession was led by some ten or twelve old blind or nearly blind men, clothed in rags, chanting in a melancholy strain the song or service usual on these occasions. It was with the greatest difficulty that they struggled slowly along through the mud and jostling crowd. They were followed by some eight or ten other men, bearing a flag. Next came some small boys, chanting at the top of their half-formed voices; then followed the corpse, resting on a bier, and borne upon the shoulders of three ragged men, who were succeeded by a crowd of wailing women, enveloped in mourning robes such as are worn on these occasions, and all screeching fearfully, and wailing the death of the departed with tears and gestures more indicative of madness and phrensy than any deep-rooted sorrow or poignant grief. These were pressed forward by twenty or thirty more ill-visaged and evil-looking wights; while to them succeeded the giddy and noisy throng of half-naked women, maimed men, water-carriers, fruit-sellers, soap-boilers, rat-catchers, snake-eaters, jugglers, dancers, "rag, tag, and bobtail."

It was indeed one of the most "extraordinary spec-



A FUNERAL PROCESSION IN EGYPT.

tacles" that I have ever witnessed. The passage-way was so narrow, so muddy, and so completely choked up with the living, that it seemed to me to be the

most ill-chosen route in the world for the passage of the dead ; though it presented all the misery and the doleful noises that the most fruitful imagination can well picture as pertaining to the abode of unhappy spirits in another world.

The old blind men and the bearers of the corpse had a difficult task to perform : those, in opening the way for the funeral procession ; and these, in keeping the body upon their shoulders. Sometimes the crushing of the unfeeling and heedless rabble against the bearers would nearly pitch them down, and then there was such a reeling and sliding of the body on the bier, that I expected every moment to see it tumble into the mud with the bearers, grave-clothes, and all. But the bearers managed to keep themselves on their feet, and the dead body on their shoulders ; and went on chanting in that impressive manner, until they turned a corner in the bazar, and disappeared.

All this time, Mr. Firkins, having skilfully backed our cavalcade into a little enlargement or elbow of the passage-way, under the greasy stall of a cook, and placed the two formidable and picturesque-looking janizaries as a sort of body-guard in front, we were enabled to witness the progress of the funeral procession, through the bazar, in comparative security.

It was now late in the afternoon. The principal business of the day was over ; and most of those turbaned sons of Mammon and the Prophet had eaten their rice and *kibab*, or whatever else they had

for dinner, and were fuming away at their long amber mouth-piece pipes, with most stoical indifference to the strange scenes around them, and to all the rest of the world. Some few, however, were still at their frugal meal, which had been brought to them from the neighbouring cook-shop, and were eating with their fingers, out of little rude brown earthen pots or pans, with all the gravity of an owl resting upon a dry limb. Others of these singular men of business, and cadaverous-looking Mussulmen, had eaten their dinner, taken their opium, and smoked themselves into a delightful sleep. They lay slumbering upon their little dirty, flea-haunted divans, fly-blown—bidding adieu to all the cares of the world, and defiance to the Babel-like bedlam and confusion of the bazar; and indeed to the thundering guns of the Turkish and Egyptian fleets, which were then roaring away most gloriously in the harbour. Business of the day with them was finished; nor could the gold of Ophir or the wealth of Cræsus tempt them from their delicious and sweet repose.

Indeed, the merchants who were thus drowned in all the delights and pleasing dreams of forgetfulness, stretched out at full length in front of their stalls, like dead hogs for sale in a butcher's shop, manifested scarcely more indifference to the higgling throng, or less desire apparently to drive a bargain with any of the passing crowd, than did those dozing, half-stupified, vegetable-looking shopmen, who still kept their eyes open, and exhibited other symptoms of animal existence. These looked out—when they

deigned to look at all upon the motley crowd of squalid wretches who wedged and blocked up the passage—with perfect unconcern; quite indifferent, apparently, whether they ever sold a *para's* worth of their merchandise or not.

This, however, was not the aspect of mercantile affairs in some other sections of the bazar, and more particularly in some of the side streets, where might be seen Italians, Frenchmen, Armenians, Englishmen, Greeks, and Jews, pushing a bargain with their customers with all the shrewdness, determination, and eagerness of a Yankee pedler. Customers, once in their hands, did not escape purchasing something, and at a price that left a liberal return to the merchant for his trouble and the outlay of his capital. They will not fail to represent their wares to their customers as possessing all the qualities that fair words and glowing promises, backed with oaths, can give them. If a customer will not purchase of them what he *does* or *does not* want, it is no fault of theirs. If importunity and annoying solicitation can avail, the idler will not pass through the hands of this class of merchants without bearing off some memorial of their skill and insidious arts.



TRICKS OF TRADE.

CHAPTER XVI.

Modern and Ancient Alexandria. — Comprehensive Views of its Founder. — Well-chosen Site for a Great Commercial City. — Canal, connecting the Nile with the Mediterranean. — Reservoirs of Alexandria. — Privileges enjoyed by the Greeks in Egypt under the Native Kings. — Cordial Reception of Alexander and his Army by the Egyptians. — Wise and Conciliatory Administration of the early Ptolemies. — Extent and Splendour of Ancient Alexandria. — Its Capture by the Saracens. — Wise and Humane Policy of Amrou, the Arab Conqueror. — His Account of the Conquest. — Policy of Mehemet Ali and the Black League. — Tomb of Alexander.

ALEXANDRIA is favourably situated for commerce; and, in consequence of the difficulty experienced in entering the mouths of the Nile with vessels drawing any considerable depth of water (owing to the obstruction formed by the double action of the sea and river), it is the most desirable port of entry in all Egypt. Nearly the whole foreign trade of the country passes through the hands of the resident merchants in that city.

Under the Greeks and Romans, when the trade of Arabia and India, or a greater part of it, came through Egypt, Alexandria was the greatest commercial em-

porium in the Levant, or, perhaps, in the known world. Its origin and subsequent richness and splendour, standing as it did upon the barren rocks of the Libyan desert, were not entirely the result of the caprice and arbitrary will of a powerful prince, the conqueror of the world,—like, for instance, the founding of the capital of Prussia, Bavaria, and some other European cities, exhibiting more the prodigality of a vain monarch, than any natural growth, real commercial strength, or prosperity in the cities themselves;—but of a well and judiciously-chosen site; such as could hardly have escaped the comprehensive mind and sound judgment of Alexander; who, after subjecting a distant country to his authority, and making it his own, sought not to pillage and destroy, but rather to embellish and enrich it, from its own legitimate and natural resources.

Long previously to the conquest of the country by Alexander, there had been a canal, uniting the waters of the Red Sea with those of the Mediterranean; and, doubtless, almost the first thing that struck the penetrating mind of that wonderful man, on deciding to erect a city upon a site so desolate and barren as that of Alexandria, was a canal to connect the river of Egypt with the Mediterranean Sea.

A canal was necessarily the first thing to be constructed, since all the material for building the city must have been brought from Egypt; for, properly speaking, at that time the site of Alexandria could hardly have been said to belong to Egypt. It was a part of the desert; and even at this time, I know

of no part of the Libyan or Arabian deserts that appears more barren or desolate than the country just without the walls of Alexandria. There is no depth of soil, nor the least sign of vegetation, except where art has done what nature has omitted to do. Not even is fresh water to be obtained, but from the Nile.

The houses of the ancient city were mostly erected upon a sub-structure of arched vaults or reservoirs, into which the water of the Nile was conducted by the canal. In these capacious reservoirs, it freed itself from the sediment and vegetable matter with which it was highly charged, and was then fit for use. Some of these reservoirs are still well preserved, and are used by the citizens of Alexandria at the present day; though the greater part of them have long since disappeared, and are now buried beneath the crumbling ruins of the ancient city.

When Norden, the Danish traveller, visited Alexandria, about a hundred years ago, most of the reservoirs were perfect, and were used by the citizens; but the canal had ceased to be a medium of communication between the Nile and the Mediterranean for commercial purposes, and only served, during the inundation, to conduct a supply of fresh water from the river to the city. The sand had so filled in and choked up the canal, that it was then no longer used even for the smallest class of passage-boats.

On the accession of Mehemet Ali to the government of Egypt, all traces of the ancient canal had nearly disappeared.

The penetrating mind of the present ruler of Egypt, in this respect not unlike the more remarkable genius of the Macedonian warrior, perceived the advantages to be derived from again opening the communication by water between the Nile and the sea. He summoned his subjects to the work of digging the canal, in such numbers, that it is said to have been navigable for passage and freight boats throughout its whole extent, in six weeks from the time of its commencement.

Under the reign of Amasis, the last but one of the native Egyptian kings, who died but a few months previously to the Persian invasion under Cambyses, the Greeks in that country had enjoyed great commercial advantages; and "such Greeks as wished to maintain a regular communication with Egypt, he permitted to have a settlement at Naucratis* . . . which soon became a flourishing town under the exclusive privileges it enjoyed; and being the sole emporium of the Greeks in Egypt, not only was every man required to unload his cargo there, but if he came to any other than the Coptic mouth of the Nile, he was obliged to swear it was entirely accidental, and was compelled to go thither in the same vessel; or, if contrary winds prevented his making that passage, his goods were taken out and conveyed in boats of the country, by inland navigation, through or round the Delta to Naucratis."

The Greeks were otherwise greatly favoured, and had distinguished privileges in Egypt. They were

* Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, vol. i., pp. 182, 183.

allowed to erect temples, and enjoy the worship of their gods in the land of Egypt, after the manner of their own country. Many of their most distinguished scholars had been accustomed to visit the vale of the Nile for the purpose of study and for other objects of improvement, and had frequently met with the greatest courtesy and attention from the ancient priests and "the wise men" of Egypt. They had often been in alliance too with the Greeks; and had fought in the same battles, and under the same banners, against the common enemy.

A friendship naturally sprung up between the two nations, through an intercourse so cordial, and without doubt mutually advantageous, which, happily, was not wholly extinguished under the oppressive and cruel reign of the Persian dynasties. Consequently, the Egyptians hailed the Macedonian veterans and their leader as friends and deliverers, on their arrival in their country, rather than as invaders and conquerors.

The Egyptians cursed and hated the Persians, who had overrun their country, taken down their temples, destroyed their monuments, and violated their gods; but at the same time they respected the Greeks, and gloried in the genius and bravery that had made them the rulers of their kingdom.

"So conciliatory was the conduct of the early Ptolemies, that the Egyptians almost ceased to regret the period when they were governed by their native princes."*

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, vol. i. p. 214.

One of the first benefits conferred by the conqueror upon the rich and newly-acquired country, was the founding of the celebrated city of Alexandria; which in time rose to be the second city of the Roman empire. The extensive commerce of Arabia and India naturally centred there, and the design of founding the city was scarcely formed and carried into effect, when it assumed an importance in the commercial world worthy its noble founder, and its well-chosen position. It was laid out with exceeding elegance and taste, and comprehended a circumference of fifteen Roman miles. It was adorned with temples, palaces, baths, and four hundred theatres, or places of public amusement; and contained a population of three hundred thousand free citizens, and nearly an equal number of slaves. It was the seat of commerce and learning, of luxury and the arts; and after suffering a variety of fortune under the too fickle, and at last hateful administration of the Greeks, and the subsequent powerful rule of the Romans,—it ultimately fell a rich spoil into the hands of the Arab conqueror, embellished with all the splendour of art, and enriched with the commerce of a thousand years.

It was, however, far from being an easy conquest; and the Saracens did not make themselves masters of this commercial emporium until after a siege of fourteen months, and a loss of twenty-three thousand soldiers, who fell before its walls.

Amrou, the Arabian conqueror, entering the gates of the city, hung out the banners of the Prophet, and

the standard of the Saracens waved victorious from its lofty battlements. The Greeks mostly made their escape in their vessels, and left Amrou in undisputed possession of the rich spoil. But, unlike the disgraceful and savage slaughter, violation, and pillage that have marked the bloody footsteps of many of the victorious generals under the banners of Mohammed since that period, he suffered not the slightest insult or injury to be offered to the citizens. He took an account of the inhabitants, imposed a tribute—left the citizens not only in quiet possession of their homes, but protected them against the lawless inclinations of his soldiery, and the schismatic feuds then existing in the bosom of the community. He commanded his generals to preserve the wealth of Alexandria and its revenues for the extension of the faith and the benefit of the public service.

In the account given of this important event to the Calif, Amrou said: “I have taken the great city of the West. It is impossible for me to enumerate the variety of its riches and beauty; and I shall content myself with observing, that it contains four thousand palaces, four thousand baths, four hundred theatres or places of amusement, twelve thousand shops for the sale of vegetable food, and forty thousand tributary Jews. The town has been subdued by force of arms, without treaty or capitulation; and the Moslems are impatient to seize the fruits of their victory.”*

Such, then, in part, was the picture of Alexandria,

* Gibbon's "Decline and Fall," London edition, 4to, p. 911.

drawn by the commander of the faithful, twelve hundred years ago—Alexandria, which, with the exception of the two obelisks of Cleopatra, and Pompey's Pillar, presents little else, at the present day, besides a shapeless mass of mouldering ruins. For miles in all directions over the site of the ancient city, a wavy surface of drifting sand rests upon the crushed fragments of its departed glory, in all the silent desolation of the desert and the grave. The once gay and brilliant city, where emperors, kings, queens, and warriors held their courts in all the splendour and éclat common to ancient eastern princes, is now only visited by the curious stranger, who silently muses over its wreck, and by the labourer, who seeks among its crumbled remains materials for new erections. It has been for many long centuries a mere quarry, whence brick and stone have been drawn to all parts of the Delta, and converted into new buildings.

The modern town of Alexandria has been wholly built from the rubbish of the ancient city. Many of the finest columns and other works of art that once adorned it, have been carried to Constantinople, Rome, and other parts of Europe.

The ancient town is still resorted to for the purpose of extracting materials for modern buildings. The old brick are well preserved, and better than new; and the limestone columns, architraves, and walls are easily converted into lime, and are used in the construction of new edifices. Its site was much more healthy and picturesque than that of the new

town, being upon the declivity of the Libyan mountains, from which the water and filth were easily conducted off into the sea.

The modern city of Alexandria stands upon the edge of the water, and in a sort of basin, as it were, where the water that runs down during the rainy season from the ruins of the old town, and the abominable filth of the wretched population of the new, all concentrate, and foment into a thousand ills and annoyances — resulting in fevers, plague, and all their devastation and terrors.

Notwithstanding all these disadvantages, and its exceedingly insalubrious situation, the present city of Alexandria is gradually improving, and increasing in trade. New buildings are frequently erected: and when we were there, one or two large mansions were in a rapid course of completion, at the head of the European Square. Nearly all the buildings upon that square are of large dimensions, and in the European style of architecture. The foreign consuls are all located in that part of the town; and the standards of their respective countries wave from the tops of their dwellings.

The liberal and enlightened policy of Mehemet Ali toward foreigners, has been the means of greatly increasing the trade and commerce of the city, and of introducing into it many modern improvements; and if this noble policy were seconded by a corresponding spirit of intelligence, liberality, and good sense on the part of those who claim the honour to reign by “divine right” over the civilized nations

of Europe, instead of that narrow-minded, selfish policy which seems to have been the controlling principle of the black league in their officious and unjustifiable interference in his affairs, the probability is that the enterprising and spirited Pacha of Egypt, though now advanced to a green old age, would be enabled to sow the seeds, which, in the course of time, under a wise administration of eastern affairs, would ripen into permanent benefits, and a regeneration of the beclouded and oppressed nations of the Levant.

The tomb of the Macedonian conqueror and founder of the once opulent and splendid city of Alexandria, is no longer to be found. It is said that his remains were put into a glass coffin, and buried in the ancient city; but all traces of his dust, or the spot where he was laid, have been lost. Not even the doubtful glimmerings of tradition, shadowed forth by the guides, exist. All are alike silent upon the subject; and, like the second city of the world in the splendour of its zenith, now mouldering beneath the sands of the desert, little else than a name remains of the conqueror or his works. How forcibly does this circumstance remind us of the passage in the writings of the immortal bard!—

“*Hamlet*. — To what base uses we may return, Horatio! Why may not imagination trace the noble dust of Alexander till he find it stopping a bung-hole?

“*Horatio*. — ’Twere to consider too curiously, to consider so.

“*Hamlet*. — No, ’faith not a jot; but to follow him thither with modesty enough, and likelihood to lead us: As thus: Alexander died, Alexander was buried, Alexander returneth to dust; the dust is earth; of earth we make loam: And why not of that loam, whereto he was converted, might they not stop a beer-barrel?

“Imperious Cæsar, dead, and turned to clay,
Might stop a hole to keep the wind away :
O, that the earth, which kept the world in awe,
Should patch a wall to expel the winter’s flaw !”

Alexandria has been the theatre of great and important events : once the emporium of commerce, of learning, of luxury, and art ; the scene too of some events important to religion. It is therefore interesting and instructive to linger among its ruins, and there contemplate the destiny of the fairest creations of the human mind, and the fate of the world. For that, too, and all that exist within it, shall succumb at last, and give way to the relentless impress of time, and finally sink into oblivion before the obliterating influence of ages—like the atom that perishes in the midst of the ocean ! The time had arrived when we were to bid adieu to all the charms, to all the wretchedness, to all the desolateness and misery of Alexandria, and seek new objects of interest and contemplation in the more venerable parts of Egypt. This, however, was not without feelings of regret ; for never in our lives had we passed time under more agreeable excitation. Every object with which we were surrounded seemed to remind us that we were in a new world, even though treading among the ruins of the old. Books may be read at a distance, but they can impart, at most, only a faint idea of the reality and impressiveness of the scenes of an eastern city.

The curious groups of citizens, with long frocks, ample turbans, hideous masks, and dresses of every variety of colour ; the strange guttural sounds of the

language, the long beards, the long pipes, the camels, the dogs, and donkeys, the odd mixture of all nations, that were crushed and mingled together in the city of Alexandria, made up one of the most extraordinary pictures that I have ever seen. Sometimes we could scarcely realize that we were witnessing scenes of real life; and that the strange picture of our contemplation was not, in fact, the restless and imperfect fabric of a vision!

CHAPTER XVII.

Preparations to depart. — Exchange of Adieus. — Affecting Scene. — Weeping and Laughter. — Heavy News. — Change of Circumstances and Dress. — Quizzing-glasses and Financial Prospects. — “Hot Mixture,” and Hunt for the Door-latch.

HAVING completed all the necessary arrangements for the commencement of our excursion up the Nile; and having, two days before, taken leave of our friend the Dane, then vice-consul of the United States in Alexandria, there were no other persons with whom to exchange adieus, except Mrs. Firkins, Mr. O’Stat-ten, and Mr. O’Screensbury.

Mr. Sneezebiter had gone off in a hurry, a day or two previously, on hearing that a gentleman of Rosetta had found a curious snake in the Delta, which he offered for sale, together with a very clever scorpion, said to have been brought with great care all the way from the tombs of Petra by an Englishman; who, on his arrival at Rosetta, finding himself rather short of funds, was reluctantly compelled to part with it much below its real value. Mr. Sneezebiter had pushed off to that city, upon the receipt of a letter, bearing that important intelligence, in hopes to close a bargain for the two reptiles on advantageous terms,

and add them both to his already attractive, and, as his English friends said, "very clever collection."

Mr. Firkins had also set out on the evening before, up the Nile, and had gone to accompany the Wrinklebottoms as far as Cairo.

The French steamer had just left for Athens and Malta, carrying off our American friend of Boston, and a number of English travellers from India, whose faces had begun to look familiar, as we saw them daily dodging about for the sights of the city; and the town itself was, just for the time, getting quite dull.

Our turn had at last arrived, and we went over to take leave of Mrs. Firkins and Mr. O'Statten; but we found it rather an affecting incident. I could not have believed it possible that an accidental acquaintance of such a brief existence could make such a deep impression as we had apparently imprinted upon the tender feelings of Mrs. Firkins. We found her "like Niobe, all tears." She appeared to be all emotion of the tenderest kind. She said it was always thus; situated in that distant, barbarous part of the world, she was only doomed to form new acquaintances, with ladies and gentlemen of civilized countries, which, when warmed into something like a little cordiality and *friendship*, were always suddenly broken off—never to be renewed again on this side of the grave! She fairly sobbed aloud, and kissed my wife over and over again; and looked so exceedingly sad and amiable in her ringlets and tears, that I was almost tempted to kiss her myself, for very

sympathy. It was really a touching scene. She made us very melancholy, so that I was on the point of giving her a solemn promise that we would certainly come back to her again, and go to Palestine from Alexandria by water. She was so depressed in spirits, so overwhelmed with grief, and so afflicted every way, that I thought the least we could do, would be to put off our departure for a day or two; at the expiration of which time I was in hopes she would get calmer, and be more reconciled to the separation.

Upon taking the doctor a little one side, and broaching the matter to him, he would not hear a word upon the subject. He said "It was all sheer affectation—a scene got up for the occasion; and altogether the most complete bit of cozening that he had seen among all the cozeners of Alexandria."

"Do you really think so?" said I to the doctor.

"Think so?" said he, "I'm satisfied of it.—See Mr. O'Statten. He can scarcely restrain himself from applauding her aloud, she acts her part of the farce so well."

"My attention has been so completely absorbed," said I, "by the apparent grief and distress of Mrs. Firkins, that I have not bestowed the least attention upon Mr. O'Statten or the part that he is performing. You must acknowledge, however," said I to the doctor, "that Mrs. Firkins feels very bad about our departure from Alexandria?"

"Not a bit of it," said the doctor, "it's all an imposition,—the veriest chicanery in the world. Come,"

said he, "let us act a little more like sensible people, and bid them adieu, *sans ceremonie*. . 'For the wind sits in the shoulder of our sail, and we are staid for.' "

"I must confess," said I to the doctor, in reply to the summary mode he proposed for cutting short Mrs. Firkins's grief, "that I cannot bring my mind to believe that such apparently deep emotion is all fudge. However, I know that the human heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; and that truth is said to lie 'at the bottom of a well.' You may be right after all, doctor, and as the arrangements are all made for our departure, perhaps it will be as well not to give way too much to feeling; but set out on our journey, and let things at Alexandria take their course."

"Certainly," said he, "that will be far better; and I propose that we go to our hotel directly." So, after another round of kisses and affectionate squeezing of hands, all the way from the drawing-room down two pair of stairs, across the court quite to the gate of the *bow-wab*, we tore ourselves away from the tender embraces of Mrs. Firkins, and left her apparently in a deplorable state of affliction.

Mr. O'Statten, who had evinced little more than the ordinary feelings of civility usual on similar occasions, until we got into the street, was now moved by a sudden impulse; and, on the instant, became nearly as much affected as Mrs. Firkins herself.

Mrs. C. was really down-hearted upon the occasion; and I felt subdued and melancholy.

We walked along for some distance, and none of us uttered a word.

Mrs. Firkins and Mr. O'Statten lingered at the gate, and followed us with their brimful eyes until we turned the corner of the street, then waved an adieu with their hands and handkerchiefs; and, as I imagined, turned toward the door of their house —

“With visage sad, and footsteps slow,
Like parting friends who linger as they go.—

This was too much for the nerves of Mrs. C., and the risible faculties of the doctor — the one burst into a flood of tears — the other into a roar of merriment. For my own part, I scarcely knew what to make of it; but I could not bid those good people farewell for ever, without one longing, lingering look; so I retraced my steps, and turned my eyes in the direction of the hospitable mansion that we had just quitted; when, what was my astonishment to see Mrs. Firkins and Mr. O'Statten standing on the very spot where we had left them, almost dying with — laughter!

When we came into the hotel, we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. O'Screensbury. He had already been waiting our return more than an hour; and had come to say good-by. He had heard heavy news from England, and put on a kind of dignified sadness. He had just received the melancholy intelligence of the death of his father, by which afflictive event he had lost an affectionate parent, with whom he had not spoken a friendly word for six

years; and, what made this heavy affliction the more poignant was, he was left to heir the title of his father and all the family estates. Neither the title nor the estates could have been very unacceptable to him, especially the latter, one would naturally have supposed; for, like his friend Mr. Sneezebiter, with whom he passed a considerable part of his time, he had not always conducted himself with that prudence and sobriety requisite to gain a parent's confidence and love; and consequently had not always received such prompt and ample remittances from home as to place his pecuniary affairs beyond the reach of embarrassment. His funds had been in a more precarious condition during the last five or six months previous to the death of his lamented parent, than at any time anterior thereto since his arrival in Egypt; and had it not been for the important assistance which he had received from his intimate friend and companion, Mr. Sneezebiter, he would have been left almost or quite penniless.

Mr. O'Screensbury had mounted a large black weed upon his hat, laid aside his white plush breeches and blue stock, left off his gold chains and gilded eye-glass, and put on the habiliments of mourning throughout — exhibiting no ornament whatever, with the exception of a little small iron-mounted quizzing-glass, hanging down upon his breast by a little black India rubber cord, which passed round his neck, of so small a size as to be scarcely discernible.

It was very seldom that I saw Englishmen abroad without the appendage of a quizzing-glass attached

to their necks, although their eyes are proverbially good.

“Those eyes, though their vision surpasses
The eagle’s that pierces the light,
Must be aided by black quizzing-glasses,
Howe’er they embarrass the sight.”

When we meet six or eight English gentlemen together, the manner in which they bring their eye-glasses to bear upon each other, and almost every other object around them, is “very peculiar,” and reminds one of Napoleon’s scientific *corps*, who followed the fortunes of that great captain in their researches and discoveries in Egypt, with their telescopes in hand, rather than ordinary men in their senses, with eyes in their heads.

It is impossible for them to recognise their old acquaintances at the distance of a dozen feet, without the aid of their eye-glasses; and then the cordiality and nonchalance with which they come together upon ultimately finding one another out, is truly laughable. Dropping their glasses simultaneously, they seize each other’s hands with the abruptness and vigor of two Greek or Roman wrestlers; shaking at the same time hard enough to dislocate the arm. “Ah, God bless you!” says one of them, “how are ye? how are ye? How have you been since the shooting season was over?” At the same time, and without heeding in the least the affectionate inquiries of his friend, the other, still keeping up the violent and almost convulsing shake, roars out at the top of his voice, “How are ye? how are ye? Where the d—l have you kept yourself since we had that set-

down at the races? I'll be d——d if I've had such a clever rubber from that day to this."

I have actually seen English travellers standing before a cathedral in Italy, studying and gazing at the bare walls of one of its broad sides through the medium of their quizzing-glasses, with as much apparent intensity as is required to see to advantage the celebrated "working-fleas" through a microscope. They seem to be as fond of their eye-glasses as the Italian monks are of sandals and snuff, although it is notorious that they can see remarkably well without, and scarcely at all with them. When their glasses are gold-mounted, and swinging about like clock-pendulums upon their breasts, they have quite a pleasing, janty air, and contrast very agreeably with the large, full-blown roses or daffodils which they fail not to stick into the button-hole of their coats whenever they can get them, and at all seasons of the year.

Mr. O'Screensbury was exceedingly partial to his *glass*, and had used it in *various* ways for so long a time, that the youthful lustre of his eye was already considerably dimmed by it; and it was supposed by his friends that his grief for the death of his lamented father would not meliorate its flushed and watery condition.

For a long time, he had found it necessary to dilute the Nile-water with alcohol, otherwise it was quite impossible for him to drink it; and, as it was, even with that precaution, its effects upon him were quite visible.

He was now much cast down and depressed in

spirits, and it would be imprudent, of course, to drink the water of the Nile without a more liberal dilution than ever. Besides, he found it necessary to indulge his rather ample propensity for the distilled liquors of Europe just at this juncture, in order to keep him from sinking under the weight of his recent heavy bereavement.

As he would soon get possession of the O'Screensbury property, he would be quite able to discharge all his obligations to his friend Mr. Sneezebiter, as well as to defray any little extras, on account of wine, women, and vipers, that might be necessary to rally his depressed spirits, now in the days of his affliction.

We could not say that we knew Mr. O'Screensbury intimately, although we had met him several times at Mr. and Mrs. Firkins's, and at one or two other places; at all of which he made a figure, and was conspicuous for the freedom and spirit of inquiry common to English residents in the East. He was now, since the receipt of his last advices from England, evidently an altered man, and put on an appearance of much more self-consequence and reserve than I had ever remarked in his conduct before.

I ascribed this alteration in his deportment to his sorrow for the death of his lamented father. The doctor thought that it was preparatory to his entering upon the title and family estates of the O'Screensburys. Our last meeting with him was not a long one: we chatted a short time, after condoling with him upon his late loss; and, to wind off the eve-

ning agreeably to his *taste*, he called for a large tumbler-full of some kind of "*hot mixture*," which he drank off, bade us farewell, stuck his quizzing-glass between his cheek-bone and eye-brow, and leaving it there, began to feel his way to the door-latch like one groping in the dark. Having found it, he took his leave, and vanished.



THE GLASS OF FASHION.

CHAPTER XVIII.

An Early Start. — Inconveniences of Indecision. — Hint to Ladies travelling in the East. — Effects of Trade. — Cruel Suspension. — Passage on the Mahmoudieh Canal. — Danger, Difficulty, and Disaster. — Scenes on the Canal. — Camels of the Pacha. — Cruelty to Horses. — Egyptian Darkness.

THE next morning we were up at the call of the muezzins from the minarets of Alexandria; and, having satisfied the host, the servants, porters, "boots," *bow-wabs*, and the rest of the retainers of the hotel, we sent our baggage to the canal-boat, and took leave of all parties.

Perhaps the reader will indulge me here with a little familiar chat by the way, which may be useful to all who visit the East.

Travelling in Turkey for amusement, and not knowing at what particular point of the Levant it might cease to be agreeable; or whence, perhaps, it might be more convenient to direct our course toward home, rather than continue our wanderings in that barbarous region, — we found ourselves somewhat in the predicament of the sailor who had turned farmer in his old age.

Never being able to decide in the morning, before

he left his house, what particular branch of his business he would take up for the day, the old sailor did not fail, on going into the field, to encumber himself with nearly all the implements of husbandry that he had in the world. Having been used to run up and down the rigging of a ship all his life, he could not reconcile himself to the idea, on retiring from the sea, of having nothing to climb in his declining years. So he selected a farm on the side of a steep mountain, with his house at its base; and, on daily climbing up to his eagle-nest fields, he seldom omitted to load himself with his beetle and wedges, axe, crowbar, hoe, pick-axe, and bush-scythe. "For," said he, "I cannot tell, before I get upon the top of the mountain, whether I shall finally decide to go to cutting and splitting rails, hoeing potatoes, digging stone, or mowing brush. I always find it *convenient* to have *all my tools with me*, and then I can easily turn my hand to any thing." And we, with about the same amount of wisdom, and with the same idea of *convenience* in our heads, on giving up our carriage at Trieste, had embarked with a load of trunks, boxes, and carpet-bags, containing a great many superfluous articles of clothing, as well as a variety of curiosities of one sort or another, which we had collected during the previous six months, in our rambles over Italy, Switzerland, and Germany, as reminiscences of travel. Perhaps it will be useless to inform the reader, that we found this redundancy very troublesome. But travellers in the East must necessarily carry their houses, bed,

kitchen, and provision along with them. We were almost unavoidably adding to our already overgrown and cumbersome burden every day. The question most important had become, not how we ourselves were to get on, but in what manner was it possible to convey our baggage ?

It may not be amiss, in passing, to observe also, that, as a general thing, ladies who may be travelling in Egypt, Arabia, and the Holy Land, will have very little use for ball-dresses, extra bonnets, and jewels, for some forty or fifty years to come. All such useful appendages to a lady's toilet under certain circumstances, and in certain parts of the civilized world, may as well be left at home, on setting out to visit the East, or advanced no further than the winter quarters of the Mediterranean fleet ; at which point, should they be fond of gayety, and happen to hit upon "*the season*," a few extras will be found quite convenient. For the brave old commodores in the Mediterranean, though sometimes, at the rumours of war, exhibiting slight symptoms of timidity and fear ; and, as is said, at the suggestion of the late diplomatic oracle near the Court of St. James, slip their cables a little too hastily and run home to take shelter in more secure quarters, are nevertheless, as goes their fame, exceedingly valorous among the ladies, and very excellent horse-jockeys. They understand perfectly well, too, it is said, the comparative merits and intrinsic value of jackasses and mules. Some of these horse-jockey, mule-driving, and jack-ass-trading commodores, it is also said, have been

pulled up a little by the bit latterly, and “hailed over the coals” for their too eager propensity to deal in mules and other animals on board ship, and have been duly punished by a suspension from the service, on *full pay!* — a severe penalty, certainly, if true, and one can hardly imagine how a man of spirit could suffer existence in this censorious world, after such a deep and palpable degradation! However, I do not vouch for the fact of what may be nothing but malicious rumour, put forth by the backbiting tongue of slanderers and bitter enemies. I can only say that, in addition to the above, common fame gives them undisputed claims to a fine taste in wines; and, however much or little they may have been frightened at the recent “ten sail of the line” threat of John Bull, they are not *afraid* of late hours, and keep up, on board ship, through “the season,” a series of soirees, balls, and fêtes, nearly or quite equal in brilliancy to the elegant entertainments given by some of the resident diplomats near the courts of the different kingdoms of Europe.

But, further east than the winter station of the Mediterranean fleet, with the exception of a few genteel dinner-dresses, which may perhaps be found necessary and convenient at Athens, in order to make a decent and respectable appearance at the elegant and hospitable mansion of Mr. and Mrs. Hill, the worthy American missionaries; who, for the good of the cause, are making *great sacrifices* at that important missionary station, by all means advance noth-

ing that is superfluous to your immediate wants, but leave all extras behind.

One good substantial bonnet is quite enough, until it is worn out; and even then, as the Turkish ladies wear none themselves, a lady from Europe or America, travelling in that country, would run no risk of being thought singular in her dress, to go without any bonnet at all. A few changes of plain, strong dresses, and their accompaniments, made with a view to pretty rough work, rather than to grace the drawing-room, will be found quite sufficient; and much more appropriate for travelling, in that rude and barbarous part of the world, than a wardrobe stuffed to bursting with the fragile dresses usually worn by ladies in the cities of Europe and America. To the superlatively refined ladies of the "literary emporium," whose commendable sense of propriety dictated the importance of putting petticoats upon Greenough's Cupids, and who cannot descend to the vulgarity of calling pantaloons by any more revolting name than "*inexpressibles*," I would beg leave to volunteer my advice, not to go to Egypt at all. For there, vulgar old Nature is exhibited in a style more obnoxious to good taste and refinement, if possible, even than Greenough's statues. Don't go; by all means stay at home; make petticoats and "*inexpressibles*" to send to the garden of Eden; and attend to your "blues." But whatever might have been our opinion in reference to the good or bad taste of the Egyptian costume, we had already advanced too far, to retreat

with satisfaction to ourselves, without going still further, and seeing more.

We had taken some pains to visit the country ; and we desired to see its inhabitants, its antiquities, and other peculiarities. If our eyes occasionally fell upon other than its beauties, its fertility ; if they sometimes dropped down upon the very *nakedness* of the land—we did not deem the circumstance a sufficient barrier to deter us from penetrating still deeper into the mysteries, and the strange scenes of the East.

The boat's departure up the canal was advertised for seven o'clock in the morning ; and, with much perseverance and considerable pushing with Selim, who by this time (as it was getting too late for us to make new arrangements) began to feel his importance, we got down to the canal just in time, as we supposed, to save our passage.

We soon discovered, however, that we should have run no great risk in being a little more easy and deliberate in our movements ; for but very few passengers had assembled, and it was nearly ten o'clock before we finally got under way.

We were, however, at last, moving up the canal ; but from the time we left the landing at Alexandria until we pulled up against the banks of the Nile, at Atfa, it was one almost unbroken scene of uproar, confusion, disaster, and danger.

The moment the order was given for the boat to start, the Arab drivers began to belabour the horses stoutly with their corbashes, and set up a shout hideous enough to frighten the poor animals out of their

harness. The horses, fine Arabians, were all spirited and noble creatures; and when the Arabs began to whip them, off they ran, kicking, plunging, and careering to their own music. The more spirited and agitated the horses became, under the galling lash and yelling of their drivers, the more assiduous were they in the use of the whip. But the horses, evidently displeased with such tumultuous and tantalizing fondling, soon broke away from the boat and their "persuaders," kicked out of the harness, threw their riders, set off at the top of their speed, and directly disappeared.

The drivers picked themselves out of the sand, and endeavoured, by running, to overtake the horses; but they soon lost sight of them, and gave up the chase as hopeless. They were now desired to go to the next station, and order a new set of horses; and, in the mean time, the wind being favourable, we hoisted sail, and moved on moderately before the breeze.

We passed a large number of boats filled with corn, slaves, and natives of the country, going down to Alexandria; and some light boats crowded with passengers, natives of Egypt, were making an easy and indolent headway up the canal. We also saw nearly two hundred of the Pacha's camels moving off under the guidance of their drivers into the interior of the Delta, after the government share of the wheat and other produce of the country.

The sight was a novel one to us, for we had never seen above eight or ten camels together at any

one time before ; and those of the Pacha were much larger than any we had seen elsewhere — they were immense creatures with one hump only — real baggage camels ; any one of which would carry seven or eight hundred pounds weight upon his back with apparent ease. They tottled along slowly over the plain ; and our eyes followed them until they were lost to the sight.

We continued our course under an easy sail for an hour or two, when the Arab drivers returned with a fresh set of horses. They were four beautiful Arabians. But they were no sooner attached to the tow-line of the boat and mounted, than a new scene of frolic, confusion, entanglement, and peril commenced. All experience seemed to be lost upon them ; and served for little else, apparently, than to harden them in folly and culpable obstinacy. Regardless of the consequence of their violence to the other horses, the drivers had no sooner mounted and set out with these, than they began to apply their whips as lustily over their sides and flanks as ever. And, as might have been expected, the fresh animals were no more gentle and docile under such a brutal cudgelling, than were those which had already broken away and fled from their unmerciful masters.

The horses frisked, kicked, squealed, and ran ; and the drivers, to quiet them, and keep them steady, laid the butt-end of their *corbashes* heavily over their heads ; — hallooing and yelling at the top of their voices as before, like maniacs endeavouring to tame

wild beasts. These noble animals soon became perfectly frantic. They dashed along over the path like the wind. Our old boat followed them like a kite; and created such an agitation in the water as to be of no small detriment to the sandy banks of the canal. Whenever we passed any of the little flat-bottomed boats, filled with the Egyptians (many of which were on the canal), they all screamed with fright, lest we, in our fiend-like course, should capsize them. Their little frail barks, though deeply laden, danced like bubbles upon the waves. Sometimes we were pushed with a dangerous crash against the shore; sometimes entangled with other boats in the middle of the canal; and sometimes crushed against those that were moored along the side of that fine avenue of water. Thus we floundered along from bad to worse, until we were brought up again with a round-turn.

One horse, through the mismanagement of the drivers, was precipitated into the canal; another commenced such a violent kicking that he endangered the lives and limbs of all around him. He threw his driver, kicked out of the harness, and broke away from his tormentors entirely. While two of them held the horses still left in their possession, the other drivers stripped themselves stark naked, and plunged into the canal; and, aided by several hands from the boat, endeavoured to disentangle the poor animal from his harness, and get him out of the water. It was a long time, however, before they succeeded; and when they at last dragged him

to land, the harness was found to be in such a dilapidated state, so tattered and torn, that a full hour was consumed in its restoration and adjustment; after which, we set out again for a new race. And although the brutal drivers succeeded in keeping possession of three of the horses for the remainder of the distance, we were continually committing some depredation or folly, by violently running against other boats in the canal, or grounding upon the banks.

This was the most abominably conducted public conveyance that I have ever seen in any part of the world; worse even than the Austrian steamers on the Adriatic and the Danube. As might have been expected, under such unpropitious guidance, it was nine o'clock in the evening before we reached Atfa; a distance which, with fair management, might have been accomplished in two-thirds of a day.

The weather, from alternate squalls and calms, drizzling showers and bright sunshine, at last settled for the night into a steady and powerful rain-storm. "It was as dark as Egypt;" and, although we had often been told that it never rains in that country, yet, since our arrival, the rain had been pouring down with the constancy and profusion of a Scotch dew in harvest-time.

CHAPTER XIX.

An Agreeable Acquaintance. — Enlightened Policy of Mehemet Ali exemplified. — Taxation, Soil, and Cultivation in the Delta. — Unexpected Authority. — Wisdom, Justice, and Mercy go hand in hand. — Tax-gathering, Retribution and Butchery.

ON our passage up the canal, we had the pleasure to make the acquaintance of Mr. Larkin, the English Vice Consul at Alexandria, whom we found to be intelligent, affable, and every way agreeable — entirely free from that conceited cant, vulgar affectation, and contemptible *hauteur* which are the prevailing characteristics of the manners of a very large majority of Englishmen whom we met in our oriental wanderings.

Mr. Larkin left the boat on reaching his estates, situated about two thirds of the distance from Alexandria to Atfa, where he has several thousand acres of the finest land in the Delta.

This most excellent tract of land, Mr. L. informed us, he had taken possession of two or three years previous to our arrival in Egypt. He was bringing the whole into cultivation as fast as the condition of the

inhabitants on the estates, and the circumstances of the country would permit.

This grant of land to Mr. L. is one of the enlightened acts of the Pacha of Egypt; and an illustration of the liberal policy which he has ever evinced in favour of all respectable foreigners. It was necessary to be in the good graces of the Pacha, and to have his entire confidence, in order to get possession of so large a tract of the rich soil of Egypt. All arrearages of taxes upon the land were required to be paid by Mr. L. previous to his taking possession of it.

An annual rent of about \$2 50 per acre on all that is brought into cultivation is exacted as a tax to be paid to the government. This tax is apparently high, — but not so in fact; since, on about three thousand acres, which Mr. Larkin has already brought into a state of productiveness, he is only taxed on eight hundred. This is the amount which he is estimated to have under cultivation.

The officers of the department, whose duty it is to assess the taxes, have estimated and put him down at that amount, without making any inquiry of Mr. Larkin upon the subject; thinking, probably, that it would be quite impossible for him to have a larger number of acres under cultivation.

The land is very productive; and, in ordinary seasons, with proper attention and plentiful irrigation, it may be made to produce two or three crops a year. His extensive territory spreads over several large villages, all of which, including the inhabitants, are

comprised in the grant from government. In accordance with the usual manner of conducting public affairs in Eastern countries, the people on the soil go with it, on the change of hands, and are under the control of the proprietor. The consequence was, that Mr. Larkin, unexpectedly to himself, at the time he made arrangements for the land, suddenly found his authority extended to a complete jurisdiction, in all ordinary cases, over the whole population of his land. This was made known to him upon his application to the legal authorities of Alexandria for the punishment of some of the Egyptians on his estates. He was told that the people were in his hands, entirely under his jurisdiction, and to be dealt with as he, in his wisdom and mercy, might deem just and advisable.

His authority, though quite complete and absolute in all other respects, does not extend to cases of life and death. But in all instances except those of capital crime, the convicted party for all minor offences is quite at the mercy of the proprietor of the soil.

At first, it was very difficult, nay, next to impossible, to impress the Arabs with the idea that they had any thing like justice or humanity to expect from any quarter. They looked upon Mr. Larkin in the same light in which they and their ancestors had been accustomed to view the odious Beys, Memlooks, and all the Turkish oppressors for many past centuries. All their possessions, heretofore, had been at the mercy, and subject to the despotic

will, of their tyrannical masters. Life and property were both liable to be seized upon at any moment, and snatched away from them by the cruel hand of power, without equity or reason.

As an illustration of the manner in which justice was formerly administered by the governor of this very district, it may not be considered inapposite, perhaps, to copy the following from Mr. Lane's excellent work* on the Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians.

The governor of El-Menoofeeyeh, "a short time before my present visit to Egypt," says Mr. Lane, "in collecting the taxes at a village, demanded of a poor peasant the sum of sixty riyals (ninety fuddahs each, making a sum total of a hundred and thirty-five piastres, which was then equivalent to about thirty shillings). The poor man urged that he possessed nothing but a cow, which barely afforded sustenance to himself and his family. Instead of pursuing the method usually followed when a fellah declares himself unable to pay the tax demanded of him, which is to give him a severe bastinading, the nazir (or governor), in this case, sent the *Sheykh el-Beled* to bring the poor man's cow, and desired some of the fellahen to buy it. They saying that they had not sufficient money, he sent for a butcher and desired him to kill the cow, which was done. He then told him to divide it into sixty pieces. The butcher asked for his pay; and was given the head of the cow. Sixty fellaheen were then called together; and each of them

* Lane's Modern Egyptians, vol. i. pp. 173, 174, 175.

was compelled to purchase, for a riyal, a piece of the cow. The owner of the cow went weeping and complaining to the superior of the nazir, the late Mohammed Bey, Defturdar. 'My master,' said he, 'I am oppressed and in misery: I had no property but one cow, a milch cow: and I and my family lived upon her milk; and she ploughed for me and threshed my corn; and my whole subsistence was derived from her; the nazir has taken her, and killed her, and cut her up into sixty pieces, and sold the pieces to my neighbours; to each a piece for one riyal; so that he obtained but sixty riyals for the whole, while the value of the cow was a hundred and twenty riyals, or more. I am oppressed and in misery, and a stranger in the place, for I came from another village; but the nazir had no pity on me. I and my family are become beggars, and have nothing left. Have mercy on me, and give me justice: I implore it by thy harem.' The defturdar, having caused the nazir to be brought before him, asked him, 'Where is the cow of this fellah?' — 'I have sold it,' said the nazir. 'For how much?' — 'For sixty riyals.' — 'Why did you kill it and sell it?' — 'He owed sixty riyals for land: so I took his cow, and killed it, and sold it for the amount.' — 'Where is the butcher that killed it?' — 'In Menoof.' The butcher was sent for, and brought. The defturdar said to him, 'Why did you kill this man's cow?' — 'The nazir desired me,' he answered, 'and I could not oppose him. If I attempted to do so, he would have beaten me and destroyed my house: I killed it, and the nazir gave me

the head as my reward.' — 'Man,' said the defturdar, 'do you know the persons who bought the meat?' The butcher replied that he did. The defturdar then desired his secretary to write the names of the sixty men, and an order to the sheykh of the village, to bring them to Menoof, where this complaint was made. The nazir and butcher were placed in confinement till the next morning; when the sheykh of the village came, with the sixty fellaheen. The two prisoners were then brought before the defturdar, who said to the sheykh and sixty peasants, 'Was the value of this man's cow sixty riyals?' — 'O, our master,' they answered, 'the value was greater.' The defturdar sent for the ckadee of Menoof, and said to him, 'O ckadee, here is a man oppressed by the nazir, who has taken his cow and killed it, and sold its flesh for sixty riyals. What is thy judgment?' The ckadee replied, 'He is a cruel tyrant, who oppresses every one under his authority. Is not a cow worth a hundred and twenty riyals, or more? And he has sold this for sixty riyals. This is tyranny toward the owner.' The defturdar then said to some of the soldiers, 'Take the nazir, and strip him and bind him.' This done, he said to the butcher, 'Butcher, dost thou not fear God? Thou hast killed the cow unjustly.' The butcher again urged that he was obliged to obey the nazir. 'Then,' said the defturdar, 'if I order thee to do a thing, wilt thou do it?' — 'I will do it,' said the butcher. 'Kill the nazir!' said the defturdar. Immediately, several of the soldiers present seized the nazir, and threw him down, and the

butcher cut his throat, in the regular orthodox manner of killing animals for food. 'Now cut him up,' said the defturdar, 'into sixty pieces.' This was done, the people concerned in the affair, and many others, looking on : but none daring to speak. The sixty peasants who had bought the meat of the cow were then called forward, one after another, and each was made to take a piece of the flesh of the nazir, and to pay for it two riyals ; so that a hundred and twenty riyals were obtained from them. They were then dismissed ; but the butcher remained. The cka-dee was asked what should be the reward of the butcher ? and answered that he should be paid as he had been paid by the nazir. The defturdar therefore ordered that the head of the nazir should be given to him ; and the butcher went away with this worse than valueless burden, thanking God that he had not been more unfortunate, and scarcely believing himself to have so easily escaped, until he arrived at his village. The money paid for the flesh of the nazir was given to the owner of the cow."



THE BUTCHER WITH TWO HEADS.

CHAPTER XX.

Despotism and Degradation. — Poverty preferable to Wealth. — Justice and Humanity rewarded. — “Reigning by Divine Right.” — Advantages of Commercial Intercourse to Civilization. — Cheerfulness and Labour. — Multiplicity of Wives offers no Impediment to Prosperity in Egypt. — Mahmoudieh Canal. — Dikes and Canals of Egypt.

UNUSED to the protection or sympathy of the government, and ever a prey to the cupidity and meanness of petty tyrants, the inhabitants of this district had long since ceased to desire the possession of wealth, or any thing more than the mere requisites to their wretched subsistence, lest the jealousy of their oppressors should be excited; and, falling under the dangerous suspicion of having more than sufficient to keep life and body together, they should be brought to the rack, the bastinado, and other tortures: which are sometimes worse even than death itself!

Though basking in a genial sun, and residing upon a soil of incomparable fertility and richness, they had no desire to possess the land, or to avail themselves of its great productive wealth; the bare necessaries of life being their sole aim, and the utmost

height of their ambition. They, as well as their forefathers for many long generations past, greatly preferred the wretchedness and misery that every where pervaded the country, to the risks of persecution, which the possession of property under a government like that of Turkey, seldom fails to bring down upon the head of its proprietor.

In absolute poverty, these miserable beings have found a kind of satisfaction in life, and the protection and security which naturally flow to the possessor of wealth in civilized nations. But the mere suspicion, on the part of their rulers, of their having more than a competency for the moment, has been considered sufficiently criminal to endanger their lives.

Happily for the long-degraded and cruelly-oppressed Egyptians upon Mr. Larkin's estates, he possessed the feelings of a noble and generous nature, and was anxious to meliorate the sufferings of his fellow-creatures. He adopted an equitable and enlightened policy in his government of those over whom he exercises an almost unlimited control. He obliges them all to work, and bring his land into cultivation. But, while he imposes upon all the wholesome duty of industry, he at the same time allows the labourers undisputed possession of one half of the gross products of the soil. The other moiety he retains himself, to defray the expenses of machinery and cattle to irrigate the land; to pay the taxes and interest on the original outlay; and other incidental expenses. Even with such fair prospects before them, it was al-

most impossible to convince the Arabs, at first, of his sincerity; and that he, like all the petty Turkish officers who have hitherto tyrannized over them, had not the secret intention to deprive them eventually of all. Their confidence, however, was gradually secured by his humane conduct toward them; and they now come forward with the greatest cheerfulness, and enter upon the labours of the field with the most commendable assiduity. Looking up to him as a friend and deliverer, they listen to his counsel as to the voice of an oracle, and obey his commands on all occasions.

He holds regular courts among them, to try all petty offenders and violators of the established rules for the government of the community; punishes the guilty, and protects the innocent. In order to make the administration of justice as impressive upon their minds as possible, and to let them know that they are not to be punished if innocent, nor escape if guilty, he introduces as much ceremony and form into the "sitting of the divan" as is consistent with the despatch of business; hears the witnesses of both parties, and decides the cases that come before him in accordance with equity and the evidence adduced.

Should this gentleman's life be prolonged, and he be permitted, under the protection of government, to follow up his praiseworthy plans of improvement, it cannot fail to produce a great moral and a most beneficial effect upon the minds of all those of whom he has been put in charge.

A few individuals like Mr. Larkin, distributed over

the Turkish empire, protected in their humane and equitable endeavours to meliorate the condition of the long-oppressed and degraded people, would do much more to regenerate and enlighten the nation, than the "ten sail of the line" operations of her Majesty's government, arming the barbarians of the Syrian mountains, exciting insurrections among the people, bombarding and destroying the large towns upon the seacoast, and burying an unoffending population beneath their ruins! It should not be forgotten, that one is the enlightened policy of the "old blood-thirsty tyrant," the Pacha of Egypt, "the vassal and illegitimate ruler;" and the other, the barbarous measure of immaculate England, whose sovereign, according to the doctrine of her church, sedulously inculcated throughout the realm, and in all the other despotic kingdoms of Europe, reigns and tyrannizes over millions upon millions of human beings, by "divine right!"

The Turks, and all the other eastern nations over which the religion of Mohammed has exercised its influences, have ever been, until quite recently, accustomed to look upon Christians as dogs and infidels, and to regard the Franks with a jealous and suspicious eye, as unjust and wicked; whom to rob and murder was considered a virtue, and even a duty in certain cases, rather than a crime. Could they be made practically to see their error, and that the Christians, disconnected with the sinister motives which generally actuate their rulers, instead of *oppressing*, have a disposition to *befriend*, and a power

to do them *good*, they would change their belief, throw off those pernicious prejudices founded in ignorance and superstition, and long cherished with demoniac bitterness. They would gradually embrace a more enlightened and consistent faith, and a course of conduct more in accordance with that of civilized nations.

A free intercourse and exchange of commodities with other countries ; a liberal system of commerce and trade, such as the Pacha of Egypt had been enabled to introduce and protect in his dominions, previously to the bombardment of the English on the Syrian coast, must effect this desirable change, if it be ever brought about at all. It can never be accomplished by bolstering up a rotten, corrupt, superannuated, abominable system of tyranny, such as that of the "*Sublime Porte*"—now taken into the very bosom and hot-bed protection of the government of England.

By invitation of Mr. Larkin, when we arrived at his estates, near the borders of the canal, we walked out to his workmen, who were erecting a large building for a granary and stable. That, however, was merely to form one wing of an immense establishment which he intended to erect, including a palace and the other necessary buildings. They were going on rapidly with the work. Men, women, and children were all busily engaged in the various departments, and they appeared to be exceedingly cheerful and happy. Some were carrying stone, brick, lumber, mortar, and the other necessary materials, while

others were erecting the walls. They were using the material excavated from the ruins of ancient Alexandria, which are resorted to as the common quarries of all Lower Egypt. They are freely open to all who have an inclination to use them.

Among the labourers upon Mr. Larkin's new building, we saw a large number of young girls from ten to fourteen years of age. We were surprised to learn that most of them were already married. It is singular how very young the Egyptian peasants marry. Nine or ten years for girls, and twelve or fifteen years, for boys, is considered a marriageable age. Both sexes have so little objection to the conjugal estate, that they get married as fast and as soon as possible.

Being married once is only a beginning of matrimonial connexions in Egypt. Three or four wives apiece among the peasants is the most common thing in the world. In addition to which, there are almost constant and continual changes. Old wives are being divorced, and new ones are taking their places; so that the matrimonial ceremony, in some of its various forms, is almost continually passing before their eyes, and intermingled as it were with their daily avocations.

The peasantry do not consider any number of wives, an encumbrance; all of them being expected to work. An Egyptian, therefore, who has four good hearty young wives is looked upon as a man, as the English say, "well to do in the world;"—or, as others would express themselves, "in a very flour-

ishing condition." These are blessings, I suppose, which those who find it hard work to support one, would hardly wish to enjoy; — still the *fellahs* of the vale of the Nile think otherwise; and if they can keep out of the army, and evade the suspicion of the Turkish governors, they are pretty sure to enjoy themselves. They are a practical illustration of the remark, that "poor and content are rich, and rich enough."

The Mahmoudieh Canal, communicating with the Nile at Atfa, and connecting that noble river with the Mediterranean at Alexandria, is a magnificent work; and a vast improvement to the country. It is ninety feet broad, eighteen feet deep, and forty-eight miles in extent. All are free to acknowledge its utility, and praise the intelligent and enterprising spirit which actuated the Pacha in projecting and executing the work. Still, there are not wanting among the European and American travellers those who are rather profuse in their condemnation of Mehemet Ali for the tyranny which he exercised upon the natives during the progress of this most valuable improvement. It has been stated that it cost the lives of 20,000 of his subjects to accomplish it; and that there were great suffering and distress among hundreds of thousands more; an assertion that may or may not be true. But no one can perceive the necessity for such a sacrifice of human life in the completion of this undertaking; nor why it should have occasioned any great degree of suffering among a population of two millions of labourers to have excavated a canal that one or two

hundred thousand of their numbers could have completed with ease in a month or six weeks, even if, as is commonly reported, they were compelled to work for nothing. But, so far from this being the case, each labourer had a month's wages in advance. If the Pacha never employs his subjects upon any enterprise of less utility to their country and of greater detriment to other nations than the Mahmoudieh Canal, I think the English, who find it very convenient in facilitating the progress of the Indian mail through Egypt, and in the conveyance of their governors and soldiers to carry on the work of tyranny over the Asiatics, may, at least, keep silence about the "blood-thirsty tyranny" of the Pacha on that subject.

The great canal, connecting the Red Sea with the Nile, excavated a little more than six hundred years before our era, cost the Egyptians "six score thousand livres."* According to Herodotus, that noble work was commenced by Necho.† It was four days' journey in length, one hundred feet wide, and forty feet in depth. It was connected with the Red Sea by sluices; as was also the case at its other extremity with the Nile. These sluices were exceedingly important, if, indeed, not absolutely indispensable; since the waters of the Red Sea are considerably higher than the Nile, at all seasons of the year, except during the inundation, when the waters of

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, vol. i. p. 70.

† Ibid. p. 161, note. — Strabo (17) says, "The canal was commenced by Sesostris before the Trojan war. Some suppose by Psammaticus the son, who only began the work and died. It was afterward finished by Darius."

the Nile, if allowed to enter the canal unrestrained, would have been no less inconvenient and destructive to the work, than the current created by the Red Sea, if admitted in full volume into it at all other seasons of the year. This important work was carried through a region of sand that every wind of the desert puts in motion; consequently, without incessant care and attention, a few years were sufficient to render it unnavigable and wholly useless. It was repaired and kept open by the monarchs of Egypt down to the times of the Ptolemies and Cæsars; when it was neglected and permitted to go to decay. On the revival of commerce with India, the communication by water between the Red Sea and the Nile was again opened. This was accomplished by the Califs; and the canal continued to be used until the passage round the Cape of Good Hope finally destroyed the trade of Alexandria. Then it sunk into comparative inutility, and was ultimately so far filled up with sand as to leave at the present day but slight traces of its existence.

In the most prosperous days of Egypt, when that fertile and productive kingdom was governed by her native princes, the country was intersected with canals and dikes in all directions. In consequence of which, the invaluable waters of the Nile—once the god, and ever the glory and wealth of the Egyptians—were restrained or diffused over the genial soil, in accordance with the most fertilizing and enlightened principles of irrigation. It was then that Joseph*

* Gen. xli. 49.

gathered corn "as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left off numbering; for it was without number."

Sesostris, who, according to Mr. Wilkinson,* was of the twelfth dynasty of the native Egyptian kings, after conquering all Asia and Europe as far as Thrace, employed the numerous captives which he brought back from the conquered nations, "in digging large canals, and raising dikes and embankments, for the purposes of irrigation, the protection of the towns and lands, and the distribution of the water of the Nile during the inundation. And though these had been previously established throughout the country by his predecessors, the superior scale on which they were now constructed, the many wise regulations he introduced relative to landed property, and the accurate surveys he caused to be made in order to ascertain the levels and extent of every person's estate, obtained for Sesostris the credit of having been the first to intersect the plains of Egypt with canals, and of having introduced the science of mensuration and land-surveying."

These highly useful public works were under the especial care and direction of the government. Soldiers were appointed to watch over them, and proper officers were directed to keep them in thorough repair.†

* Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, vol. i. pp. 29, 103.

† *Ibid.* vol. iv. pp. 101-103. — "Guards were placed to watch the dikes which protected the lowlands, and the utmost care was taken to prevent any sudden influx of water which might endanger the produce still growing there, the cattle, or the village. And of such importance was the preservation

Under the Persians, all the public improvements of Egypt suffered a decline,—and the Greeks were scarcely more careful of them; while, under the Romans, they ran to far greater dilapidation; but the consummation of their total ruin was reserved for the Arabs and Turks. So that, with the exception of the noble Mahmoudieh Canal, and a half-filled ditch conducting the water of the Nile, during the inundation, from the river to the city of Cairo, there is not a canal at the present day throughout the whole valley of the Nile that is kept in decent repair, or that is capable of being used to the least advantage to the country.

of the dikes, that a strong guard of cavalry and infantry was always in attendance for their protection, certain officers of responsibility were appointed to superintend them, and large sums of money were annually expended for their maintenance and repairs.”



CANAL (ALIMENTARY) IN GOOD REPAIR.

CHAPTER XXI.

Introductory Letters from Mr. Firkins. — New Acquaintance. — Inconvenient Delay. — Necessity strengthens Confidence. — Flattering Prospects not likely to be realized. — Disappointments not always conducive to Humility. — Nile-boat and Fellow-passenger. — Unsatisfactory Investigation. — Unpleasant Dilemma. — Sailor's Importunity rejected. — Gloomy Prospect. — Arab Captain. — Departure.

MR. FIRKINS, in order to give us the benefit of passing through the hands of as many of his friends as possible, was kind enough, previously to his setting off with the Wrinklebottoms up the Nile, to write several flattering letters in our behalf, which he insisted upon our delivering. Among others, there was one addressed to Mr. Menasseh Schillinger, his commercial correspondent at Atfa; who, at the same time, was the confidential agent of the British consulate at Alexandria. On presenting us with these *valuable* and *highly-esteemed* introductions, which we received somewhat reluctantly, after what had happened, Mr. Firkins was careful to remark, with great emphasis, that Mr. Schillinger was one of his *particular* friends, who, on our arrival at Atfa, "would most gladly do himself the pleasure to make all the necessary arrangements for the continuation of our excursion

free of charge; and that we would therefore experience no inconvenience or delay whatever, further than what would be absolutely necessary to transfer ourselves and luggage from one boat to another." He also observed that he "was going through the same route with his esteemed friends the Wrinklebottoms; and, anticipating us, he would not fail to apprise Mr. Schlillinger of our expected arrival at Atfa; and would request him to be in perfect readiness to receive us, and make all the necessary arrangements for our embarkation on the Nile."

Thus provided with this *respectable* recommendation to Mr. Schlillinger, in which our names were not only mentioned in the most flattering terms, but in which we were styled Mr. Firkins's *particular* friends, we felt, on our arrival at Atfa, a little curious about the future, though we congratulated ourselves that we had made the Jehu kind of voyage of the canal with unbroken limbs, and with our heads still upon our shoulders.

As it was raining incessantly at the time, and as it was too dark to venture into the village, we enclosed the letter of Mr. Firkins, with our compliments to Mr. Schlillinger, and requested the favour, if perfectly convenient to himself, to engage next morning a good boat and crew for us, so that we might proceed on the voyage at as early an hour as possible. Selim, who was the bearer of this despatch, made all convenient haste, for the rain and Egyptian darkness rendered loitering by the way, at that time of night, rather an unpleasant amusement.

Luckily, Selim found Mr. Schlillinger at home, and soon came back to us with a very polite note, in which Mr. Schlillinger begged to excuse himself for not calling upon us that evening (which of course we did not expect him to do); and urged, as an apology, the inclemency of the weather, and the exceeding darkness of the night. Indeed, I have no recollection of ever experiencing so dark a night before in all my life; and it is very seldom that even the *darkest day* in England, when they get up the richest and most aristocratic fog that ever obscured the dingy streets of London, can be compared to that night for blackness.

Mr. Schlillinger kindly observed in his note, that "*his esteemed friend* Mr. Firkins, on passing through Atfa a day or two before, had mentioned our names to him in a very kind manner; and he was much gratified in having it now in his power to do something for us; and we might rest assured that we were quite safe in his hands. Every thing should be arranged in accordance with our wishes by the next morning, so that we might set off from Atfa, at latest, by seven or eight o'clock."

Having received this pleasing intelligence from Mr. Schlillinger, there being no hotel or *khan* in the place, we unrolled our beds, lay down in the boat, and slept soundly until daylight the next morning.

The perplexity of getting our luggage packed and sent off to the boat; the parting scene with Mrs. Firkins and Mr. O'Statten the night before; the rather late hour's condolence with Mr. O'Screensbury;

and the fatigue and excitement of the voyage up the canal, had all combined to prepare us for the silent enjoyment of repose.

Day had no sooner dawned upon the desert, and scattered its cheering influences through the rich vale of Egypt, than we arose, and took up our beds to walk. It had ceased to rain, though it was still cloudy, and threatened another deluge. In accordance with Mr. Schlillinger's polite note which he had done us the honour to write the evening before, we expected the boat in which we were to ascend the Nile would soon be ready. In the mean time, we had a hasty breakfast prepared, which we despatched in a hurried manner; and, having put our ponderous baggage in order, we were ready to take possession of the boat. But, as was the case the day before, we found there was no necessity for hurrying ourselves, or of abridging the pleasures of a more prolonged morning nap; for it was ten o'clock before our boat was announced as being ready. We, of course, trusting all to Mr. Schlillinger, to whom we came so highly recommended by his "*esteemed friend*," saw no necessity or propriety in interfering with our *own* business, since we had not only his assurance that we were "perfectly safe in his hands," but the declarations of Mr. Firkins at the time he gave us the letters of introduction, were more than sufficient to annihilate all doubts that could possibly obtrude themselves in ordinary circumstances.

In addition to the attention of Mr. Schlillinger, who was enlisted in our interest, and who was zeal-

ously bent upon "doing something for us" while there was yet an opportunity, we added the energies of our gayly-attired, though, by this time, rather soiled Arabian dragoman; who, of course, to serve us in the best possible manner, would not stick at any thing. There could be little doubt that, between them both, a close bargain would be driven, and the utmost care taken to procure a boat every way convenient, so that the remainder of our voyage to Cairo might be completed in the most agreeable manner. Besides, it was not only civil, perhaps, inasmuch as it showed the degree of confidence which we reposed in the undoubted integrity of Mr. Schlillinger, not to interfere with the arrangements which he was kindly making in our behalf,—but it was an unavoidable necessity, which rather constrained us to that confiding course, since neither the doctor nor myself knew a word of Arabic; and I do not suppose there was a single individual in Atfa, with the exception of ourselves, Mr. Schlillinger, and the dragoman, who understood a syllable of any other language. In addition to which, the wretched condition of the streets, being a complete slough of mud, did not offer much inducement to ramble about the village or the banks of the river, for business or pleasure.

The doctor felt scarcely more inclined to interfere directly with the pending negotiations for the boat, than I did myself; though we both had a lurking suspicion that we might possibly be gulled a little in the bargain.

However, about ten o'clock, the arrival of Selim

and Mr. Schlillinger dissipated and dashed all our evil forebodings into bright and cheering prospects. They informed us they had succeeded in getting one of the best boats on the Nile, for the moderate price of four hundred and fifty piastres, to convey us as far as Cairo. We were to have the boat entirely to ourselves, and a crew of ten good men to navigate it.

I thought, according to the flattering representations of Mr. Schlillinger and Selim, the arrangement was a pretty fair one; though I had been told at Alexandria that boats from Atfa to Cairo were usually obtained at prices considerably less. But as Mr. Schlillinger gave us to understand that this boat and crew of ten men were going up expressly on our account, and that every thing was so commodious, comfortable, and convenient—the price, since it was the best that could be done, was not worth the least consideration. We ordered Selim to take our luggage on board, and soon prepared ourselves to follow it.

Mr. Schlillinger, in the mean time, presented an agreement for our signatures, bagged the four hundred and fifty piastres, urged as an excuse for not attending us to the boat a press of important business, bade us adieu with raised hat—a thousand low bows—a thousand expressions of regret that it was out of his power “to do any thing more for us,” begged a kind remembrance to his esteemed friend Mr. Firkins, and then departed.

My wife made some remarks upon his affability, as soon as he was gone, and thought him a very gentlemanly and obliging man. My mind

was quite as favourably disposed toward him ; but, upon my making some further remarks in his praise to the doctor, he said we had better go on board the boat, and then we would probably be enabled to make up a more correct judgment.

Accordingly, we took the accustomed leave of the servants on board the canal-boat, and left it. But, the moment we stepped on shore, it was with the greatest difficulty that we could stand upright ; and our feet at the same time stuck to the ground as if they had been pinned to the spot. We found it even more difficult to move forward than to keep our legs under us, though both required no small effort.

The drenching rain, the night before, had turned the rich, black loam, of which the whole soil of the Delta is composed, into a kind of paste or glutinous mud, which was not only deep, but nearly as adhesive as pitch, and almost as slippery as glass. However, bad as it really was, we succeeded, after making sundry slips and stumbles, in safely reaching our new boat.

If our hopes and expectations had been raised a little too high by the flattering accounts given us of the boat and its "ample accommodations" by Mr. Schlillinger — they were, certainly, upon the first glimpse of what he, in his zealous friendship, "had been able to do for us," brought low enough to suit the most fastidious inculcators of self-denial and meekness in Christendom. Still, the effect of this disappointment, I am afraid, was far from being salutary upon our minds.

To find one's self humbugged, cheated, deceived, and villanously overreached, and still remain tranquil, reconciled, and perfectly at ease, though it may be very amusing to some, requires the wisdom and discipline of a philosopher, or the dark dull influences of the Mohammedan religion; which teaches the faithful to declare, under all circumstances, though an assassin meet them with murder in his hand, that "it was so decreed," and that it is their duty tamely to submit to all sorts of imposition, provided they see no way to ward off impending danger, and no channel through which to pour forth their bitter revenge. But we, poor sinful mortals, claimed no credit for Moslem piety, or philosophical sageness and stoical tranquillity of mind. On the contrary, when we saw ourselves decoyed, as it were, on board one of the nastiest and most abominable looking things that I have ever seen afloat and dignified with the name of boat, although we could not help smiling, we were at least a little, a very little, vexed.

The doctor thought it would be quite impossible to ascend the Nile in such a crazy thing, and the attempt scarcely appeared in a more favourable light in my eyes; while my wife, if she were not in fact actually indignant, I am sure her appearance indicated no small degree of disappointment. I thought I saw depicted in strong outline upon the doctor's high intellectual brow these remarkable words: "all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

The boat was a long, shabby, decayed structure, with one mast, and an enormously large and tattered

lateen sail ; all of a Pharionic age, if not, in fact, of the time of Joseph. Even had we been told that it was a fabric built from the fragments of Noah's ark, and put into its present form soon after the subsiding of the deluge, its venerable and decayed appearance would have gone far to strengthen, in our minds, the strong probability of the truth of the assertion. It was deeply laden with bales, boxes, bags, and barrels of merchandise. On the deck, in a heap of straw that resembled an antiquated hog's nest, squatted an old, gray-bearded Jew, with a few rags wrapped about him ; over which, at the moment we stepped on board, the Israelite was zealously poring, in order to rescue them from the vile possession of some of the numerous descendants of those plagues which the celebrated ancestor of the Hebrew created from the dust of Egypt, and with which he so cruelly afflicted Pharaoh and his people. This Jew and ourselves were all the passengers that had "taken places" at the time, though the *rais* was no doubt in hopes to get a few more before we left the wharf.

Circumstances did not indicate very strongly that "the boat was going up expressly on our account." However, when we went into our "large and ample cabin, with three separate rooms," as Mr. Schillinger informed us it contained, we found one of them to be a water-closet ; and another, so cramped in size, that the doctor could not possibly lie down in it at full length ; while all three of them were so abominably filthy, and so odoriferously perfumed, that it was absolutely necessary to seek relief from the horrors of

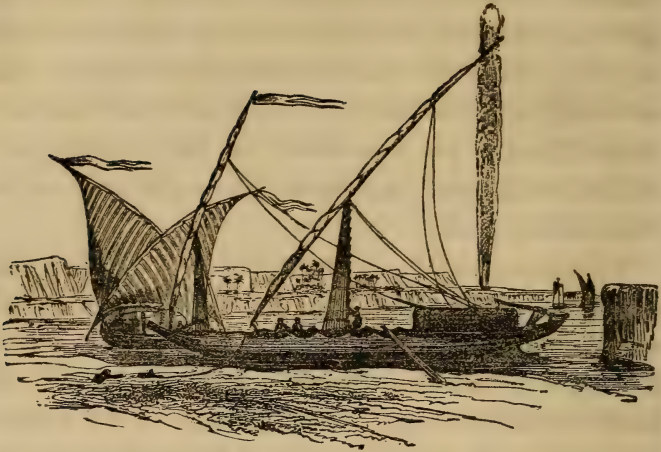
the cabin, in the open air on deck. In returning from this exploring expedition, we reached the door, and found it beset and hemmed round by ten or twelve broad-shouldered, heavy Egyptian sailors, standing half-naked before it, with hands extended, demanding "*buckshish! buckshish!*" These were the boat's crew, the sailors with whom we were to make the voyage; and so determined did they at first appear in their uproarious demands, that it seemed we were to pay toll, or remain prisoners.

I was in no humour to submit quietly to any further imposition; and I found it necessary to take a stand against them at once. I accordingly raised my cane, and rushed out upon them with no friendly intention. I have not the least suspicion that I looked very amiable on that occasion, as I swung my cane about among them, threatening to break it over their heads if they did not leave us to the pleasant reflections that naturally, under such circumstances, filled our minds. My phraseology, so far as words were concerned, they did not fully comprehend; though the "language of signs" and gesticulations, which accompanied my words, they did not mistake. The speedy manner in which they cleared out from the door and ran toward the fore part of the boat, spared me the trouble of striking, and themselves the pain of receiving the blow. The fact is, we had the weakness to give way to the impulses of the moment, and were in no mood to woo a panther or caress a bear. We scarcely knew what to do. Mr. Schilling had taken our gold; and "urgent business" had

made it convenient for him to be invisible. Nobody could tell where he had gone. We had signed an agreement to go in that boat, and we were in a hurry to get up the river: not knowing for certainty that we could better ourselves, even should we conclude to sacrifice the piastres which we had already paid to Mr. Schlillinger, and open the negotiation anew with another *rais*.

The prospect was as gloomy as the weather, and it began to rain. All our luggage was on board; and we finally made up our minds to let it remain where it then was, and stay ourselves and take care of it. In the mean time, the *rais*, or captain of the boat, a gaunt, sharp-faced, robber-visaged fellow, having come on board, we gave orders to get the boat under way. But Arabs are never ready. It was then near twelve o'clock; still they must go out into the village and purchase bread. And when the men returned with the bread, two or three of the other sailors had gone on shore to take leave of their friends. These were sent for by a messenger, who loitered longer than those he went to seek. At last the *rais* was obliged to go himself in quest of his sailors; whom, after much delay, he collected on board, and we pushed off into the stream.

There was a light northerly wind at the time, which filled our ragged sail, and we glided along moderately up the river.



BOATS UPON THE NILE.

CHAPTER XXII.

Commencement of the Voyage on the Nile. — Unpleasant Company. — High Wages and Sailors' Dress. — Nile-boats and their Rigging. — Fertility of the Delta. — Amrou's Description of Egypt. — Rude Manner of cultivating the Soil. — Scenery on the Nile. — Real "Plagues of Egypt." — Perplexing State of Affairs. — Council of War. — Commencement of Hostilities. — Pitched Battle with the Bugs. — Unsatisfactory Result.

Soon after we swung out into the stream, it began to rain again as copiously as ever; and, from admiring the beautiful prospect without, we turned our attention to the charms within the cabin. We ordered Selim and the cook to sweep and brush out the cabin as well as they could, and to arrange our luggage so as to enable us to sit down upon it. There were

none of the drawing-room elegances and comforts about the cabin ; nor were we, though under cover, entirely removed from the annoyance of the drenching rain. A ragged awning was hung over the deck in front of the cabin, which extended round over the two side-windows, to ward off the piercing rays of the sun in clear, hot weather, but which now only served to make our wretched situation still more deplorable. This awning conducted the water into the cabin, in streams, during the rain, and kept up a constant dripping between the showers. But we were glad to be off, at any rate ; and resolved to make the best of every thing. We knew that we had been humbugged by Mr. Firkins's "*particular friend*," and we had suspicions that our valiant dragoman had received his share of the spoils. The price, as we afterward satisfactorily ascertained, should not have exceeded one hundred and fifty piastres at most, for a good, sea-worthy boat, entirely disencumbered of merchandise and passengers.

We had, however, fairly embarked, and expected to meet some, at least, of the vividly-described plagues and annoyances of Egypt ; which, if the stories of travellers are entitled to credence, all pilgrims on the Nile, for many centuries past, have been forced to encounter.

The deck of our boat was overrunning with water, and slippery with mud. The forward part of it was covered with dirty straw, filled with fleas, bugs, and other vermin, against which the old Hebrew waged war to extermination.

The crew consisted of ten large, well-built, athletic sailors, and a *rais*; making eleven men in all. They wore no clothing except a loose frock each, which buttoned close round the neck, and came down a little below the knees. They furnished themselves, and received the enormous amount of about ten cents each per day! The *rais*, having command of the craft, received almost twenty cents a day. The wages of these men, for similar service in the United States, could not be less than fifteen dollars per month each, besides their board. In Egypt, allowing them to have constant employment at the above *high* prices, they would only receive about three dollars to three and a half per month, and find themselves! And that would be about twice the amount which they would be able to realize for their services were they to work on the land! They all, however, appeared to be lazy; and the *rais*, though more piratical and ferocious in expression, and receiving nearly double the amount per diem paid to the others, seemed to possess scarcely more ambition or spirit than the rest. They all required a great deal of urging forward, and would make some excuse to go ashore at every old village on the river.

Our sail, though hanging in shreds and tatters, was as immense as it was curious. It was cut in the form of a triangle, and stretched upon a spar of enormous length, which hung and turned upon a block fastened to the top of the mast. This block acted as a kind of pivot or hinge, upon which the sail and spar were easily shifted from side to side, as

occasion might require. In reefing, or clewing up the sail, it was only necessary to lash the lower end of it as far as the block, connecting the yard with the top of the mast, when the other end could be brought down and fastened to the deck, acting somewhat like a country well-sweep—when the other end of the sail could be tied up or arranged with the greatest facility. All the Nile-boats were rigged in a similar manner; though most of them had two, and many of them three sheets each. In sailing, one end of the spar, which rests in the centre upon the top of the mast, as described above, is brought down and fastened to a ring for that purpose; on the deck; while the other end, extending upward at an angle of about forty-five degrees, carries out the other extremity of the canvass; and the whole serves as a kind of backbone, being the only support the sail has throughout its entire length. With a good breeze, these curiously-rigged boats skim over the yellow bosom of the Nile with the airy lightness of a feather.

Having got under way, our excited feelings began to soften down a little. We thought it was as well to submit patiently to what seemed to be our fate, and to console ourselves with the reflection, that “things without remedy, should be without regard.” The wind, though light, was fair; and, for several miles, the old crazy boat “floated sideways like a majestic duck.” Before the breeze, we could crowd along with considerable facility.

Soon after leaving Atfa, we passed a large brick

building, said to be an extensive cap manufactory, belonging to the Pacha.

Advancing moderately up the Nile, we were struck with the exceeding depth, richness, and fertility of the soil. Judging from the accounts given by ancient as well as modern travellers, of the productiveness of Egypt, we were prepared to witness something greatly exceeding in fertility any country that we had before visited. But the utmost stretch of our imaginations, and all our previous impressions in regard to it, fell very far short of the reality. The rich and lofty banks presented green fields of wavy grass and grain, stretching off, on either hand, in almost spontaneous luxuriance, farther than the eye could reach. Nothing can surpass the Delta of Egypt in point of richness and fertility; and it is probably unequalled, in this respect, in any other part of the world.

The soil, in some places, for twenty or thirty feet in depth, along the banks of the Nile, in the Delta, is a deposit of black loam, of the richest description, brought down by the river, in the long succession of its inundations, from the upper country. Some part of the glowing picture of Egypt, given by Amrou, the Saracen conqueror, to his master the Calif Omar, though drawn twelve hundred years ago, is true even at the present day. He said to Omar: "O commander of the faithful, Egypt* is a compound of black earth and green plants, between a pulverized mountain and a red sand. The distance from Syene

* Gibbon's *Decline and Fall*, London 8vo edition, p. 913.

to the sea is a month's journey for a horseman. Along the valley descends a river, on which the blessing of the Most High reposes, both in the evening and morning, and which rises and falls with the revolutions of the sun and moon. When the annual dispensations of Providence unlock the springs and fountains that nourish the earth, the Nile rolls his swelling and sounding waters through the realm of Egypt: the fields are overspread by the salutary flood; and the villages communicate with each other with their painted barks. The retreat of the inundation deposits a fertilizing mud for the reception of the various seeds: the crowds of husbandmen who blacken the land may be compared to a swarm of industrious ants; and their native indolence is quickened by the lash of the task-master, and the promise of the flowers and fruits of a plentiful harvest is sure. Their hope is seldom deceived; but the riches which they extract from the wheat, the barley, and the rice; the legumes, the fruit-trees, and the cattle, are unequally shared between those who labour and those who possess. According to the vicissitudes of the seasons, the face of the country is adorned with a *silver* wave, a verdant *emerald*, and the deep yellow of a *golden* harvest."

"What wonder, in the sultry climes that spread
Where Nile, redundant o'er its summer bed,
From his broad bosom life and verdure flings,
And broods o'er Egypt with its wat'ry wings;
If with advent'rous oar, and ready sail,
The dusky people drive before the gale.
Or on frail floats to neighbouring cities ride,
That rise and glitter o'er the ambient tide!"*

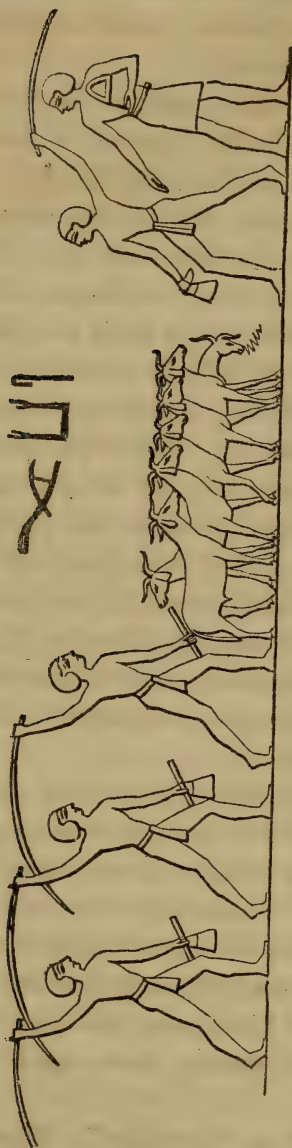
* Mason's Gray, p. 199, 200.



INUNDATION OF THE NILE.

The whole of the Delta is annually overflowed during the inundation of the Nile, and greatly enriched by the fertilizing deposit which remains upon the soil after the water has subsided; so that it is productive beyond any other country in the known world: though cultivation can scarcely be conducted in a more rude and primitive manner than that pursued by the natives. Indeed, little more seems absolutely necessary to ensure a crop, after the inundation has subsided, than to scatter the seed upon the ground, and turn a flock of sheep or goats on to tread it in; and then, in the course of a very short time, to gather the harvest, which is brought to maturity in that rich soil and genial climate with almost incredible rapidity.

In our progress, we passed, at short intervals, villages of mud-walled cottages and farm-houses, surrounded with groves of palm and date trees, inhabited by the most wretched beings that I have ever seen out of the British dominions. Their dwellings, though well enough looking when seen at a favourable distance, appeared to be, when approached, mere dens,



EGYPTIANS DRIVING GOATS TO TREAD THE SEED INTO THE GROUND.

without chimneys, windows, or doors. They are as cheerless as the floorless, mud-built hovels of the Irish and Scotch peasantry.

Many of the inhabitants, naturally filthy and disgusting in their habits, were half-naked, and some of them appeared without any clothes at all. Their religion, fortunately, imposes the necessity of washing before prayers, which all the *faithful* are scrupulously exact in doing; otherwise, the people are so indolent, that they would fairly rot alive in their own dirt, even with the Nile at their feet.

The scene before us was every way novel, peculiar, and interesting. Although our first day upon the Nile was rainy and disagreeably cold, which necessarily compelled us to keep within our little stived-up prison of a cabin most of the time—yet, after the first shock, we did not regard the numerous bugs and other creeping plagues with which our new quarters were infested, further than to brush them off as they fell down upon us from the ceiling, or crawled up from the floor.

When the shades of evening, however, closed around us, our real troubles commenced. A scene indescribably *stirring* was now opened to our astonished gaze. Where only here and there an insect was discoverable through the day, thousands and tens of thousands made their appearance as soon as we struck a light: blackening the walls and ceiling of the cabin, and pouring down upon us in a regular shower.

These were no “humbugs.” They were all genu-

ine black, thorough-going, winged bugs, of various sizes, actively bent upon doing us all the mischief that lay in their power. They were every where, on all sides, turn which way we would; look up or down, before or behind, on the right hand or on the left, there was nothing but bugs, bugs, bugs! They were not of the diffident or unsocial kind either. They made themselves as familiar with us as though we had been old acquaintances.

Like the frogs* of Moses, which came up into the houses and bed-chambers of the Egyptians, into their ovens, and into their kneading-troughs; that covered the land, and came both upon Pharaoh and his servants, and upon all his people,—so those legions of tormenting bugs came upon us, covering our backs, legs, arms, necks, hands, and faces; crawling deliberately into our bosoms; entering into our pockets; running down the back of our necks, and rummaging over our persons and effects with all the vile vigilance of the London custom-house officers examining a Swiss jeweller. At last our case became desperate. We could endure it no longer. We rose with a determination to do something; but what, we scarcely knew. It was a new and a strange enemy; so bold and daring in attack, and pressing the siege in so pertinacious and determined a style, that we were really more amazed than indignant. At first, we sought to cover ourselves from their assault, rather than come to a pitched battle at once, and manfully abide the issue. But the attack was led on and kept up with

* Exodus viii. 3, 4.

such vigour, that even the lamb-like members of the "New England Non-resistance Society," had they been placed in similar circumstances with ourselves, would have been justified before the world, and heaven too, in girding up their loins, buckling on the armour of war, and taking the field. Nor do I think that they would have been much more willing, when attacked on the one cheek, to have turned the other to the assault of those vile insects, than we were. I would not, however, wish to be understood as laying any claims whatever to the well-earned and stern virtues of that enlightened association, which has declared itself absolved from all responsibility to every other community under heaven, and openly at war and rebellion (though with spiritual weapons) against all the established organizations of society in every part of the known world.* But however contrary to the mild and heaven-taught spirit that professedly pervades the virtuous bosoms of the "New England Non-resistance Society," and however shocking it may appear to the calm, pure, and spotless benignity of all its members, individually or collectively, who have beaten their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks, and who, alas! I apprehend, are so far "ahead of the age" as to have come into this wicked world a little before their time,—we, after holding a deliberate council of war, resolved upon a pitched battle!

Having decided upon war, and having resolved to rescue our rightful possessions from the enemy, we

* Vide "Principles of the Non-resistance Society," Boston, 1839.

had next to decide upon the best mode of attack, and the weapons to be used in the onset. We found ourselves in a dilemma scarcely less embarrassing than that of the "great powers" during the first year and a half of their *skilful* diplomacy in reference to the "pacification of eastern affairs," when they resolved unanimously and most religiously upon making the "old blood-thirsty tyrant" (to use a complimentary English epithet) give up the Turkish fleet, and evacuate Syria; but, amid their jars and jealousies, unable to decide what compulsory measures should be adopted, and by whom the delightful and honourable task of destroying the large towns on the Syrian coast, and burying unoffending citizens beneath their ruins, should be performed, the black league remained in doubt, disagreed and disgraced, for eighteen months — and much, no doubt, to the detriment of civilization. Thus he, who, according to the sedulously inculcated doctrines of the Roman Catholic and English churches, and the cherished principles of European nobles, was born and destined by heaven to rule, tyrannize, and reign over the entire empire of Turkey — the miserable, drivelling, sensual boy, already decayed and declining under the excess of dissipation and disease; the Grand Seignior! his Serene Highness the Grand Sultan of Turkey, remained shut out from his *legitimate* and rightful possessions, decreed him by heaven; while the "old blood-thirsty Pacha," who, according to the same religious creed and wise doctrine, has his power direct from his Satanic Majesty, kept in his hands the

thundering guns of the Turkish fleet, and stood upon the Holy Land with drawn sword, arrayed against heaven, the black league of Europe, and the Sublime Porte !

Our situation, previously to entering upon warlike operations against the bugs, was nearly as perplexing as that of the "great powers," and nearly as ridiculous ; though I am willing to admit that we fell infinitely below them in the "*sublime*."

The doctor is rather a peaceable man in principle, though I am not aware of his being a member of any of those effective and highly useful associations in the United States, denominated "Peace Societies ;" whose intelligent and enlightened members declare, and very satisfactorily maintain, that the revolution which our wicked predecessors got up against the mother country, by which we were rescued from the clutches of a European tyrant, was an offence against heaven, and a great moral wrong : and consequently, I suppose, that George Washington, the leader of that (in their estimation) unhallowed rabble, and who has hitherto been thought entitled to the respect, and even the gratitude of his countrymen, was, after all, instead of that pure patriot and honest Christian which all the world are willing to acknowledge him, a very bad man, and did the wicked people of the United States a great deal of moral mischief !

I think our worthy friend the doctor did not belong to any of those enlightened associations ; nor have I the least suspicion that his notions, on the score of peace, were as praiseworthy as the radical purity and

metaphysical abstractions of any of the members of those societies ; yet he was evidently so far an advocate of pacific measures, as to throw pretty much the whole burden of warlike operations upon my shoulders. Like Goldsmith's giant, he failed not to carry off a good share of the honours and advantages of war ; while I, like the unfortunate dwarf, who was so sadly handled in their united enterprises, came in for more than a full share of the fighting and danger.

One or two suggestions relative to the most advisable mode of attack were thrown out, but they were so mild and ineffective in their character, that they were scarcely taken into serious consideration. I was perplexed, and did not know what to do. The enemy, however, was momentarily augmenting his forces upon the walls, assuming a more formidable appearance ; and, if that were possible, taking a more impregnable stand, and strengthening his position in every way.

Our situation was evidently becoming more and more critical every instant. Still we remained undecided as to the details of our future course.

In the midst of this doubt and embarrassment, we luckily hit upon the idea of calling to our aid the cook and our valiant dragoman, in order to take their advice upon a subject which, though it may appear trifling to persons indulging in the luxury of their elegantly-furnished houses, richly-carpeted chambers, and beds of down, five or six thousand miles from that perplexing scene, was nevertheless important to

us ; and much of our future happiness or misery depended upon the final result.

Selim, as usual, was for violent and noisy measures. He was positive that a corbash would be the best weapon that could be used. Like the "patent medicine" venders of modern times, it is true, he had only one prescription for all cases ; but then that had the peculiar merit of being an "infallible and sovereign remedy" for every thing. He had always found the corbash most potent in all his assaults upon beggars and mule-drivers ; and even in the graveyard at Alexandria, he had used it to the greatest possible advantage. He was now ambitious to add new laurels to his brow, by leading on the attack upon the bugs, *corbash* in hand ! I was still undecided. I had already ample evidence of Selim's valour, and considered him every way worthy and competent to take the lead in a warfare of that kind. He had my full confidence, so far as real valour and courage were concerned ; but, knowing "that the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong," and feeling some doubts as to the effect of the *corbash* on *all* occasions, however powerful it may be on *some*, I turned to our Arabian cook, and gravely asked his opinion about the best mode of attacking the common enemy.

The cook replied without hesitation, and said—
"*Hot water* and a *ladle* were the only weapons that could be brought to bear upon them with the least possible hope of victory." He promised, if we would allow him to take the lead instead of Selim, he

would obtain a complete and decisive victory over the enemy, and drive him quite beyond the precincts of our possessions.

This, though highly encouraging, was no more than Selim had already assured us he could do in an incredibly short space of time. Instead, therefore, of finding any relief by consulting the cook, we actually felt more embarrassed than ever. We had no great faith in the proposed weapons of either; and now, for the first time, we discovered that there was an ambitious spirit of rivalry kindling in their bosoms, which might result in no trifling inconvenience in the present vexatious position of affairs. We felt the importance of allaying all the improper and ambitious desires to supersede Selim in the command, that might haunt the imagination of the cook; but at the same time, in order to ensure a harmonious co-operation of the parties in some energetic and well-digested warlike operations against our enemies, it was necessary to conciliate the feelings of the knight of the spit and ladle, by at least taking his proposition into consideration, and comparing its relative merits with the bold scheme of Selim. After some little discussion and deliberation, we resolved to adopt neither, and proposed a sort of compromise, if it may be so termed. Instead of the corbash proposed by Selim, and the boiling water and ladle insisted upon by the cook, the doctor thought a broom was far preferable; and the adoption of this weapon was cheerfully assented to on all sides.

It was, however, unanimously agreed that Selim

should have the command ; and he at once proceeded to lead up his forces, and commenced the attack with bravery and warlike vigour. The onset, however, was conducted in such a disorderly and unsoldierlike style, that, although it was uproarious and ferociously savage, yet the advantages gained produced comparatively trifling results.

The enemy was driven from the walls, and obliged to seek shelter from the furious *pursuit* of our troops ; but it was only to come into the field again with greatly increased numbers, and every way better prepared for a second campaign.



RICHARD THIRD.

“ A thousand hearts are great within my bosom ;
Advance our standards ! set upon our foes ! ”

CHAPTER XXIII.

Recommencement of Hostilities. — Selim supplanted in Command by the Cook. — Weapons and Mode of Attack. — Sanguinary Engagement with the Bugs. — Annihilation of our Assailants. — Renewed Demonstrations of War. — Another Battle. — Retreat from the Field. — “Military Glory.” — Repose.

OUR valiant troops returned exulting from the field of battle, and boasted of having overthrown the enemy and gained a decisive victory. Yet, when an account was taken of the dead and wounded, it was astonishing how small a number of the confused, black, and disorderly hosts, which had provoked the war, and kindled up the martial spirit of the dragoon and cook, were left upon the field. Indeed, the warriors were no less surprised at it than ourselves: they were evidently so disappointed that they could hardly believe their own eyes. Both of the veterans, however, attributed the trifling carnage that ensued, to the mode of attack, and the imperfect nature of the weapons. They were liberal in their condemnation of such unwieldy implements in an assault upon an enemy so diminutive; and certain that, had their favourite plans been adopted, the result would have been far more destructive to the foe.

The evening was wearing away, and so far, little had been done. The enemy, already recovered from the noise and shock of the dragoman's wrath, again began to make his appearance in greatly augmented numbers. He was rapidly concentrating his forces, and taking up a strong position in more fearful array than before. Like the Goths and Vandals of old, who desolated Rome, the hateful foe blackened every prospect with his numerous hosts. Our position was becoming more and more critical every moment. No time was to be lost; and we confided the command of the second campaign to the cook. This circumstance could hardly have any other than an inflating effect upon the ambitious feeling of the knight of the spit; who, in proportion to the mortification of the despairing dragoman, elevated himself into a delightful ecstasy of vain reflections. He urged, with the most sanguine hopes and evident sincerity, the importance of renewing hostilities with the least possible delay; and gravely declared it as his deliberate opinion, that no weapons could be brought to bear upon the enemy with half the effect of that of hot water. He proposed to deluge the whole cabin, from top to bottom, throughout all its innumerable cracks, crevices, holes, nooks, and corners: literally boiling it out, as it were, and simmering it over the fire.

He insisted that destruction to the enemy under that process, however formidable in point of numbers or position, was inevitable; and that they must succumb to his superior intelligence. He promised a

complete triumph over our tormentors, and as desolating a ruin as the troops of Pharaoh met with in the Red Sea.

The trifling inconvenience, however, of having all our luggage drenched with water, and of being turned out, during the process, to buffet the severity of the storm on deck, opened our eyes to all the evils which were likely to attend the cook's favourite scheme; though it was quite evident that the enemy must thereby meet a signal defeat, if not in fact total destruction.

Upon a more deliberate consideration of all the circumstances, we were obliged to reject the plan in part. It was therefore proposed, instead of the inundation which the valiant cook wanted to let off upon the enemy (somewhat as the Dutch overwhelmed the French at the time of the invasion of Holland by Louis XIV.), that, armed with basins full of boiling water, and lighted torches, the forces should be drawn up for a powerful attack upon the enemy's centre.

This mode of operation was at once adopted, and ground was immediately broken. It was wisely determined to commence the engagement with as little noise as possible, in order not to frighten the invaders from the walls by an unnecessary din of arms, without cutting off his retreat, or in fact without doing him any material injury, as had been the result of the first attack. Our mode of warfare rendered it necessary to approach the foe under a strong blaze of light; but that, so far from frightening him, and warning him of his danger, had been the principal attraction that

had tempted the present assault upon us. It was easy, therefore, to advance upon the foe, and to carry fire and destruction into the centre of his camp. This occasioned not the least disturbance among his ranks, until they fell before our blazing weapons, tumbled from the walls, and met a horrid death in the boiling bath that lay beneath. As the centre of their numerous host was cut to pieces, it was filled by the reserves which had taken positions on the right and left, in the rear of the main army; and were drawn to the vortex of destruction by the constant fire of our wasting implements, and soon plunged into the same irretrievable ruin that had swallowed up their "illustrious predecessors."

Thus an incredibly short space of time was sufficient to annihilate thousands of their troops; and the brave cook had the gratification, after throwing out heaps upon heaps of their dead bodies into the Nile, to rest from his labours, and repose under the shade of his laurels. At first, it seemed to be a complete victory; and, as we were too easily encouraged to believe, a total annihilation of the entire army. But in these pleasing reflections we found ourselves disappointed. We had hardly decided on the programme of the triumph which was to be given to the cook in honour of his glorious victory, when—no less to our surprise, perhaps, than the "Congress of Vienna" were seized with, when, to their horror, they received the unwelcome news that Napoleon had escaped from the island of Elba, and again ascended the throne of France,—we discovered the ever ac-

tive and apparently exhaustless foe again hurrying his numerous recruits into the field! Already he had assembled his cohorts in formidable squares and dense columns along the lines; and the black hosts that brought up the rear in the distance, indicated but too clearly the legions with which we had still to contend. The proud crest of the valorous knight of the frying-pan evidently drooped, and his countenance collapsed. His expressive mouth was pressed up into the shape of the ominous and black capital letter O! He put the fore finger of his left hand to his lips, and for the space of five or six minutes, was absorbed in all the deep revery of the most profound meditation. He uttered not a word, and looked almost as deplorably as the dragoman. We were equally silent for the same space of time; and anxiously "watched the mountain."

At length, greatly to our relief, we had the gratification to see the rigid expression of the cook's sallow face relax from that despairing cast of visage which had stamped it with such a gloom. As we still continued to gaze upon the softening features of his countenance, it gradually brightened, until it was lighted up into a happy smile: and striking his forehead at the same time with his right hand, he said, in an elevated tone of voice, "I told you so; I knew such would be the result. Unless the whole premises be thoroughly drenched and inundated with boiling water, there is no such thing as ejecting this infernal enemy from our dominions."

He put himself upon a high horse; threw all the

blame and responsibility of the partial failure in the war of extermination upon the doctor and myself; determined to bear no part of the disgrace (if so the late conquest might be termed); and took a stand as confident in his own ability now as ever, that, should we accede to his proposition, and allow him to adopt his own mode of carrying on the war, nothing was easier than to annihilate the entire race of our assailants at a blow. There was too much probability in the cook's remarks to be flatly contradicted; besides, much of what he said had already become matter of history. Consequently, the doctor and I could make no reply.

Under almost any other circumstances, I am sure the persuasive powers of the cook would have carried all before him; but the same reasons that dissuaded us from adopting his plan in the first instance, sustained us firm and immoveable in our resolution now. We gave him to understand, once for all, that to think of inundating the cabin with boiling water, so long as the storm without prevented us from moving our luggage to the deck, was quite out of the question; and we directed him to draw up his forces again before the enemy, and recommence hostilities — showing no quarter to age, sex, or rank.

The cook bowed assent; and immediately commenced a furious onslaught upon the thickest squares and most dense columns of the gathering foe, carrying confusion, death, and destruction to the very centre of his "squares, his crescents, and his phalanx firm."

The carnage was awful. The smitten ranks and dying legions that fell before the arms of the chivalric knight of the caldron, and the horror of the scene, exceed all my descriptive powers, and make my flesh crawl upon my bones when I think of it, even to this very day. It was a regular Waterloo slaughter. The number of *noble* bug-families that were put in mourning by the bloody fight waged by our relentless champion, has never been satisfactorily ascertained. It must have been immense; scarcely less, probably, than that which the sanguinary carnage of the French put in sombre weeds on that memorable occasion which bound Napoleon like Prometheus to a rock, with a vulture at his heart, and raised the Duke of Wellington to

“A station like the herald Mercury,
New-lighted on a heaven-kissing hill.”

The enemy was driven back, routed, and cut to pieces in every direction. He was apparently overthrown and destroyed; and our victorious troops again returned from the field, “covered with glory.” Our dominions being once more happily swept of the abominable presence of the assailants; and we and our valorous warriors, being greatly exhausted with the distressing fatigues of the day, sought the consolations of repose. But, before we had fairly arranged our beds, again, to our amazement, the enemy was seen concentrating his forces, and hanging out his banners upon the walls! Again the cook, with fire and water in each hand, and wrath kindled in each eye, rushed forward to the fight; and, although

exhausted and battle-stained by the two late campaigns, he nevertheless acquitted himself in the bravest and most gallant style, driving the foe before him on all sides.

Returning once more victorious from the toils and dangers of war, the valiant knight was anxious to lean upon his weapons, and seek repose in the calm sunshine of peace. But alas! again he was called to share anew the perils of mortal combat; again the enemy had recruited and equipped a new army, and was hastening forward to take up the old position from which he had been so often driven and with such signal losses. Poor knight! long and tedious were thy duties in the field. Like other eminent commanders who have earned their fame in the sanguinary and destructive fight, thou too hast had thy hands deeply imbued in the work of death, and sent thousands into eternity, whose dying maledictions may tarnish the decorations that glitter upon thy breast, and wither the green leaf of victory upon thy warrior brow!

To be serious: the innumerable insects that poured in upon us in such dense and blackening crowds, seemed rather to increase in numbers than diminish, as the work of destruction proceeded. For, although we destroyed host after host as fast as they made their appearance upon the ceiling and walls, yet they continued to come forward in such fearful swarms, regardless of the fate of those that had been already destroyed, that it was really a hopeless case. We gave over the idea, at last, of being able to com-

plete their ruin ; and endeavoured to shelter ourselves as well as we could from their approach. This we were enabled to do to some effect, by suspending a sheet over our bed, attached at each corner by nails driven upward into the ceiling. From this canopy we hung other sheets on three sides of the bed, which so far sheltered us that we passed the remainder of the night in comparative quietness.



REPOSE AFTER BATTLE.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Climate, and Kamsin Winds of Egypt. — Effects of Habit. — Mode of sailing on the Nile. — Rambles on Shore. — Shyness of the Egyptians. — Volunteers. — Military Conscription. — Press-gang. — Appropriation of the Spoils. — Disadvantages of being mistaken. — Effects of Tyranny and Oppression. — Injustice of Tax-gatherers. — Arab Dwellings. — Story of an aged Egyptian.

WITH the dawn, our eyes opened the next morning upon a clear sky. It had ceased to rain; the clouds had cleared away, and the south wind whistled over the plains like the sharp blasts of March in a northern clime. It was none of that scorching, unendurable heat that some travellers have described as almost always prevailing in Egypt. On the contrary, it was sufficiently cold to render our great-coats no unwelcome appendages through the day, even in the long walks in which we indulged upon the high banks of the Nile.

The Egyptians, however, suffered little or no inconvenience from the keenness of the atmosphere, though they generally wear but very little clothing; nor did I notice any additional garments used by our sailors on that occasion, nor by the villagers that we saw in our progress up the stream.

Habit effects wonders with any people in any climate. The Egyptians, used from earliest infancy to a very slight covering of clothes, indeed, in frequent instances, to almost none at all, little feel the necessity of those warm flannels and fur-garnished wrappers which are deemed so essential, if not almost indispensable, to the comfort of Europeans; though furs and very warm clothing are sometimes worn by the more opulent part of the inhabitants in Cairo and Alexandria. They do not, however, appear more healthy on that account; and, from the fact of their wrapping themselves up in furs on very warm days, as well as when there may be some slight chilliness in the air, I concluded that it was more for show and effect than comfort. "As for our merchants," says Volney, in his *Travels in Egypt*, "their sensibility is owing to their improper use of furs, which is carried so far, that in winter they have frequently two or three coverings of foxes-skin; and even in summer, retain the ermine or *petit gris*. In excuse for this, they plead the chilliness they experience in the shade, as an indispensable reason But the secret and real reason is, that the pelisse is to be considered the lace of Turkey, the favourite object of luxury; it is the sign of opulence, and the etiquette of dignity; for the investiture of important offices is always accompanied with the present of a pelisse, as if they were to say of him to whom they give it, He is now arrived at so great an eminence, he need concern himself with nothing, but perspire at his ease."*

* Volney's *Travels through Syria and Egypt*, i. 42.

The climate of Egypt we had found thus far very different from the descriptions usually given of it. Yet frost is rarely or never seen in any part of the country; never, certainly, in Upper Egypt, and rain is of very rare occurrence above Cairo.

There was a stiff breeze blowing down the Nile all day; and what appeared to us as being peculiar was, that the south winds of Egypt, though hot, relaxing, and disagreeable in the extreme, during the warm season, are nevertheless, in the winter, the coldest and most bracing winds that blow. The north wind, which prevails in Egypt for nine months in the year, is never so cold as the south wind during the winter months. The winds generally blow up or down the Nile, throughout the year; and an east or west wind is said to be of exceedingly rare occurrence.

The most fearful and distressing wind, is the hot wind, or kamsin. "When these winds begin to blow, the atmosphere assumes an alarming aspect. The sky, at other times so clear in this climate, becomes dark and heavy; the sun loses his splendour, and appears of a violet colour. The air is not cloudy, but gray and thick, and is in fact filled with an extremely subtile dust, which penetrates every where. This wind, always light and rapid, is not at first remarkably hot, but it increases in heat in proportion as it continues. All animated bodies soon discover it, by the change it produces in them. The lungs, which a too rarified air no longer expands, are contracted, and become painful. Respiration is short

and difficult, the skin parched and dry, and the body is consumed by an internal heat. Recourse is had in vain to large draughts of water ; nothing can restore respiration. In vain is coolness sought for ; all bodies in which it is usual to find it, deceive the hand that touches them. Marble, iron, water, notwithstanding the sun no longer appears, are hot. The streets are deserted, and the dead silence of night reigns every where. The inhabitants of towns and villages shut themselves up in their houses, and those of the desert



TRAVELLERS OVERTAKEN BY THE KAMSIN.

in their tents, or in wells dug in the earth, where they wait the termination of this destructive heat

Wo to the traveller whom this wind surprises remote from shelter ; for he must suffer all its horrible effects, which sometimes are mortal. The danger is most imminent when it blows in squalls, for then the rapidity of the wind increases the heat to such a degree, as to cause sudden death.”*

When the winds are unfavourable to the use of sails in ascending the Nile, the sailors get out upon the banks of the river and tow the boat along at a snail's pace, by means of a rope attached to the top of the mast. The wind from the south being directly in our teeth all day, made this mode of sailing rather monotonous and slow. It was necessarily adopted, however, as being the only means by which we were enabled to make the least progress on the voyage.

Availing ourselves of the opportunity thus afforded for a little exercise, we got out of the boat when it was run ashore to land the men, and rambled along the banks of the river for many miles. We walked much faster than the men could tow the boat, and doubling a long bend in the river, we soon lost sight of it.

In passing through the streets of some of the numerous mud-walled villages that skirt the borders of the Nile, we were struck with the shyness and timidity evinced by the inhabitants at our approach. The small children viewed us with amazement ; and the men, with the exception of some who were very aged, were seen stealing glances at us from behind the dark

* Volney's Travels, vol. i. p. 37.

corners of their rude dwellings. When they observed that they had attracted our attention, they dodged back, as if fearful of being caught, and sought greater security in their hiding-places. The women, however, were much less timid than the men; except, perhaps, the younger females, who made their escape with great precipitation whenever we, unawares to them, accidentally crossed their path.

During the whole day, I have no recollection of seeing a boy who might be over six or eight years old; and these were invariably deformed or maimed — having had one eye extinguished, or the fore finger of the right hand cut off, or the front teeth knocked out, by the hand of maternal affection and kindness. A lad between the ages of ten and sixteen years, blind, lame, or fingerless, or indeed of any description whatever, was not visible to us in any one of the many villages that we entered during our peregrinations; they being, if any existed, (of which, among a population so numerous, there can be little doubt,) all secreted, as we were informed, for fear of being pressed into the army.

For a long time past, the following has been the usual mode of raising native troops in Egypt. Recruiting officers are sent out through the towns and villages, to make as short work as possible of what, in some countries, has been found rather a protracted business, and seize upon all the boys they can lay their hands on, and march them off to the garrisons and military depots. Being once in the hands of the military officers, they are immediately put in rapid

training for service. Sometimes these juvenile *volunteers*, thus collected in the upper country, receive, on entering the service, a *bounty* of a pair of *hand-cuffs*, and are seen on their way to the "tented field," huddled together in large numbers, on board of transports descending the Nile, with iron rings round their necks, fastened to long and heavy poles. In this manner, their *humane* and *brave* commanders commence the drill; and they are formed into rather rigid platoons in the very outset of their military career.

This mode of recruiting an army by *volunteers*, would not be in exact accordance with the rude, uncultivated, and bad taste of the inhabitants of that deplorable part of the world slightly known abroad by the name of the United States of America; though in "*British America*," and in all other parts of the English territory, its merits and advantages are fully appreciated, I dare say; and the right of her Majesty's government to man British ships-of-war, and fill the ranks of the army, by the just and equitable means of the "press-gang act," is still loyally acknowledged. In case of necessity, it would doubtless be as willingly submitted to at the present day by all her Majesty's devoted subjects, as it was during any part of the bright and luminous periods of England's glorious struggles with the naughty and refractory Yankees. Indeed, I am disinclined to accord to England the sole merit of adopting this virtuous, enlightened, and humane policy; for it seems to be that upon which nearly all the "Great Powers" of Europe rigidly practise, in keeping up the numerous and mercenary

armies that overshadow every kingdom of the old world.

The Pacha of Egypt, with his twenty, thirty, or fifty thousand troops, thus snatched away from their homes and pressed into the army, to be shot down at some future day, is, after all that has been or may be said about his "blood-thirsty tyranny," but a "mere circumstance" in the "press-gang" business, when contrasted with the wholesale manner in which those operations are conducted by the "Great Powers." With them it is a gigantic monopoly, fearfully threatening to the whole earth; and it is no surprising thing now-a-days, in this enlightened period of the world, notwithstanding the salutary impressions and powerful incentives to tranquillity already made by the "New England Non-resistance Society" upon the turbulent spirit of the universe — I say it is no matter of surprise to one passing through the kingdoms of Europe, to witness armies of many hundred thousands, laced up in strait coats, with fancy facings, loaded down with guns, beds, tin cups, and bottles, idling their time away for the enormous salary of five or six cents a day each, under the command of some supercilious sprig of nobility; while the nations at large groan under a weight of taxation almost insupportable, in order to keep up the military establishments and the splendour of the courts.

We were informed that the recruiting officers of Egypt, in their official rambles through the villages, were accustomed, not only to kidnap, bind, handcuff, and carry off all the decent-looking boys they could

find, but the "clever-looking girls" came in for a share of their attention ; and were sometimes hurried off too, in the same summary manner, to keep their brothers company, perhaps, or for other purposes, doubtless well known to their gallant captors. Besides the fair sex and the sprightly lads, for which these "officials" have evinced rather a threatening fondness, it was reported to us that they had indulged rather lavishly in a propensity for sheep, chickens, eggs, milk, bread, and whatever else happened to fall in their way, in the course of their "searching operations." They do not hesitate to carry all these things to their account — forgetting, at the same time, to pass the amount to the credit of the owners, or in fact without making them the least return whatever.

Being mistaken, as our valiant dragoman informed us, for recruiting or other officers connected with the government, it was not at all surprising, perhaps, that our appearance was looked upon as rather an unpropitious omen ; or that those who deemed themselves in danger at our approach, should seek safety in flight, or conceal themselves in the dark recesses of their hiding-places.

I am not aware of being mistaken for an officer of any government, at any time previous, or even since that period ; and however honourable, advantageous, and gratifying to human pride it may be to hold office, or to be even suspected of being under government patronage in other countries, the bare suspicion that we were the favourites of the Pacha, proved to be of some inconvenience and embarrass-

ment to us. For, being desirous to purchase a little milk, a few chickens, and some eggs, at one of the villages where we stopped, and the people mistaking us for some of the "officials" of his Highness, and fearful that we would not make them any return, they refused to let us have any thing at all, and ran away and left us.

The dusky children of Egypt have suffered much oppression and indignity throughout every generation, from the time of the Persian conquest down to the present day; though the rule of the Pacha is no more exacting or severe, if so much so, than fell upon the necks of the Egyptians from the powerful hands of the Greeks and Romans during some periods of their domination over the country, and far less distressing than they experienced under the barbarous and savage tyranny of the Memlooks.

The natural consequences of these long ages of despotism and slavery are, that the people themselves, accustomed to be plundered by the government and its officers, and unused to its care and protection, have lost all moral courage, and are strangers to every principle of honesty. They have become base and powerless recreants, and are perfectly indifferent to every thing further than the bare necessities to a life of listless indolence.

We were informed that the governors and tax-gatherers frequently came in with claims against the peasants, nearly or quite sufficient to cover the whole products of their labour; and, where one man's crops fall short of meeting these unjust and exorbitant de-

mands, they hesitate not to levy the deficit upon his neighbour, who may be found in possession of a surplus.

In this way, one man is made accountable to government for another's liabilities; and one town or village, however remote, is sometimes called upon to pay the arrearages of another, with which perhaps the inhabitants have not the least connexion whatever!

It necessarily follows, that men guilty of such flagrant acts of cruelty and injustice, are soulless and void of the common feelings of humanity. The only and most plausible pretext or excuse that these fiend-like tax-gatherers and governors offer in justification of their outrages and robbery upon the people is, that "the money is owing to the Pacha, and the country must pay it. And, since it must be paid, it matters little to *them* whence it comes, so that they collect the amount of the taxes; and they must take the property wherever they can find it."

Under a system every way so unjust — first introduced by the Persians, improved upon and perfected in all its cruelty and abomination by the Greeks, Romans, Arabs, and Memlooks, and which has been religiously observed and practised upon ever since by the Turks — it cannot be expected that the withered hopes and suppressed ambition of this morally low and degraded people will ever be revived. There are left to the Egyptians none of those powerful incentives and noble promptings, so necessary to the elevation of the human mind. All have been swept away by

the hand of tyranny, and the land of beauty and fertility now appears comparatively desolate — a wilderness of moral darkness!

In the villages, as we passed along, I looked into some of the wretched abodes of the inhabitants, and found them the same loathsome and filthy dens that we had seen every where else inhabited by the peasantry. They were swarming with bugs, fleas, flies, and lice.

At the door of one of these polluted dwellings, we saw an aged man sitting upon the ground, clothed in rags. He was smoking a rude pipe, with an air of contentment beaming upon his countenance, which attracted our attention. We saluted him in the usual style of his country, and received a courteous response. He rose from his seat, and returned our salutation with the ease and grace of manner peculiar to the dusky children of the East — a manner which princes even of civilized countries might be proud to imitate.

His form was still erect and graceful; though his flowing silvery beard, that hung far down upon his bosom, and his wrinkled visage, indicated the long course of years that had revolved around him, with all their wearing, withering, wintry effects. We asked him his age; but of that he could not rightly inform us. He said that he was much the eldest man in the village; and that he was there when Napoleon marched his veterans to Cairo, to fight “the battle of the Pyramids.” He said that he had a most perfect recollection of those stirring times; and they had

strong hopes that the day of their deliverance from the tyrannical and barbarous hands of the Memlooks had indeed arrived. He said that he and many of his countrymen tried to take courage; but "it was of no use. Egypt is a doomed land; and must ever rudely feel the yoke and burden of her oppressors."

He told us of the barbarous cruelties inflicted upon some of the inhabitants of his village by the Memlooks, especially upon all who were suspected of having property. He said, "the only prudent course was for a man in Egypt never to possess any thing more than the bare necessities of the present moment require; and that he, ever acting on that principle, had never attempted to accumulate any property during his existence. Consequently, he had never had the misfortune to excite the jealousy of his neighbours, or attract the attention of the Memlook tax-gatherers or the governors of Egypt; and, after a long life, he was now likely to end his days in peace and happiness."

I thought this man a philosopher, a modern Diogenes—one who could ask no greater favour of an emperor or king than for him to stand aside and let the light and warmth of heaven descend upon him, with all their true, sincere, and cheering influences.

We parted with the old man, and walked down to the banks of the Nile, musing over the mysteries of this strange existence.

CHAPTER XXV.

Continuation of the Voyage. — Bounties of Nature. — Pollutions of Man. — Consolation drawn from the Contemplation of Misery. — Administration of the Law. — Exciting Incident. — First Glimpse of the Pyramids. — Termination of the Voyage.

WHEN the doctor and Selim came up, we went on board, and the sailors swung the boat off the shore, and began to tow it up the stream. In the evening, the wind having subsided, we came to against the shore; and, having staked the boat according to the usual custom on the Nile, remained tranquil through the night.

We got under way again the next morning, and resumed our slow and tedious voyage by towing the boat against the current and a head wind. It was slow work; and, inasmuch as our vessel was not a place where one would wish to remain just for the pleasure of the thing, the hours passed heavily away. The weather, though by no means pleasant, nevertheless improved. It was neither so wet as we found

it at Alexandria and along the borders of the canal, nor so cold and blustering as on the day before. The country every where bordering the Nile, exhibited the same picture of fertility that we had seen and so much admired in all parts of the Delta.

Nature had accomplished her part well; and appeared every where lavish in her bestowments. A thousand natural charms were spread out in that lovely region for man's enjoyment. But man himself appeared to be the same degraded, filthy, thriftless, savage creature that we had every where seen him in the fertile vale of Egypt.

We were upon the banks of the river the greater part of the day, walking for exercise; but we were careful not to lose sight of the boat. Our situation on board was not an enviable one, certainly; still, one's feelings easily adapt themselves to circumstances. We began to think it not the worst place in the world; and its attractions were not a little heightened when contrasted with the miserable dens of mud that skirted the borders of the river; nor was our condition so lamentable either when compared with the wretched beings that inhabited them.

We endeavoured, therefore, to draw what consolation we could by contrasting our situation with that of those around us; all of whom were evidently much worse off than ourselves.

If this course were generally pursued, or rather were we to compare the seeming ills and perplexities of life with those which are in reality far more



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aggravated than our own, much imaginary pain and mortification would be spared us, and the mind would be an infinite deal more tranquil and happy.

In passing an old straggling village hanging upon
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the lofty banks of the river, we observed the inhabitants in a state of great excitement. Women were running about the streets, vociferating hideous cries. They were gathering in groups along the borders of the stream in front of the town, and evinced by their hurried steps and menacing gesticulations great alarm. We could not at first imagine the cause of it. But casting our eyes upon the beach a little further up the stream, we saw a confused crowd clustered round a man who was thrust down upon the ground, and held by several lubberly fellows sitting upon his arms, legs, and breast. Another man with a heavy whip was administering numerous stripes upon the prostrate individual.

I was disgusted with the barbarous spectacle; and, had we been sufficiently near to the inhuman scene, I might have had the indiscretion to interfere with the legal authorities in their savage mode of administering the laws.

When the man of the whip had evidently become wearied with the arduous blows which he had inflicted upon a fellow-creature, he rested from his "official labours." The sufferer rose from his ignominious bed, jumped on board a boat, which lay against the bank, and pushed off at a rapid rate down the stream.

The knight of the lash was surrounded by several piratical fellows in costume, with pistols in their girdles, and sabres at their sides. The boat was soon out of sight, and the crowd dispersed.

We were curious to know the meaning of a scene

so novel and strange. Upon inquiry, we learned that the delinquent, who had been thus publicly whipped, was a refractory *rais*. Unwilling to conform to the articles of his agreement with a party which he was conducting down the Nile, his bad conduct had compelled his employers to hand him over to the governor of the village for punishment.

This was the first public whipping by "*official hands*" that we had witnessed. Would that I could say it was the last.

The sun went down gloriously behind the Libyan sands, and the evening set in calm and lovely. We had finished our tea, and taken seats to note some of the incidents of the day. The doctor, to enjoy the air, left the cabin and seated himself on the upper deck near the steersman, with his legs hanging over the water. This was a careless position; one in which he was certainly liable to accident. He might have been precipitated into the Nile, and none could have foreseen the consequences.

The evening breeze had filled our sail, and some of the crew had lain down upon the upper deck and fallen asleep. We were gliding along in a more agreeable manner than at any time since our departure from Atfa, when we heard a man tumble from the deck, and dash into the water! The boat, in a moment, was all in confusion. Every Arab was bawling at the top of his voice, and vociferating commands. None obeyed. All were bent upon doing something, yet they did little else than render confusion more confused. Amid this wild

uproar, the boat was hove off her course; the wind was shaken out of the sail on one side, and it filled in upon the other, in a manner that nearly upset us.

I ran out of the cabin, and called for the doctor; for I had supposed from the first that it was he who had fallen.

Selim had taken the alarm. He had mounted the shrouds, and was "making night hideous" with the variety and stentorian tones of his voice. He had rung the doctor's name upon all the different languages of which he had any smattering; and the cook had come to his aid with a fresh pair of lungs that grated upon the ear like the braying of an ass. The scene was frightful. The sailors run the boat ashore; and, amid the din, we had the satisfaction to hear the doctor's voice. Our apprehension in regard to his safety was now relieved. But still there was a man overboard! and we supposed he was rapidly sinking into eternity!

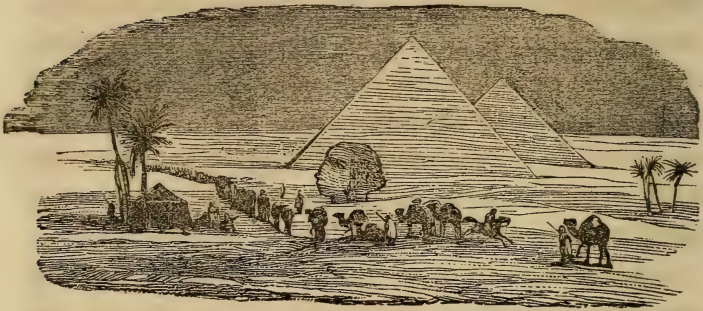
The moment the boat touched the bank, most of the men caught up each an oar, leaped on shore, and ran down the borders of the stream, calling out for their lost companion in tones loud and frightful enough to have raised the dead.

The rapid current had prevented the drowning man from gaining the land, and had borne him a long distance down the Nile; consequently it was some time before the sailors heard his shouts for help. When at last they were abreast of him, they had run themselves out of breath. But no time was to be lost.

The man was near his end : instantaneous help alone could save him. They all rushed into the river ; and, instead of half our crew perishing in the water, as might have been the case, they all succeeded in regaining the bank, and in dragging their drowning companion out with them. He was, however, in such a state of exhaustion, that he could not have survived much longer. They brought him on board, wrapped him up as well as they could, and stowed him away in the straw. It appeared that he had fallen asleep, and an unlucky swing of the boat, or a careless turn of his own, had tumbled him off into the river. The magic of his dream was quenched by the chilly waves.

All things being once more put to rights, the boat was again pushed out from the shore, and our old ragged sail given to the wind. The breeze had freshened a little during the exciting scene which we had just witnessed, and now bore us onward in gallant style. The wind continuing fair and fresh through the night, we had measured a good part of the remaining distance of our voyage before morning ; and the first thing we saw on looking out of our cabin, were the great pyramids of Ghizeh, burnished by the fresh tints of the rising sun, pouring its mellow beams over the barren mountains that skirt the borders of Egypt. On an elevated terrace in the distance rose the bold and beautiful minarets and gilded domes of Cairo. The villages of Bulak and Shoubra stood upon the banks of the Nile, overlooking a vast extent of culti-

vated plain, rich with the green crops of the year. The obelisk of Heliopolis stood against the eastern sky ; and the boundless desert of Libya stretched off toward the west, like an ocean of desolation.





A PART OF CAIRO, WITH THE CITADEL, EXHIBITING THE MULGUFs FOR CATCHING THE WIND ON THE TOPS OF THE HOUSES.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Palace and Gardens of Mehemet Ali. — Sand-gale. — Arrival at Cairo. — First Impressions. — The Hotel and “mine Host.” — Ride to the Citadel. — Mosque of Sultan Hassan. — Palace of the Citadel. — Joseph’s Well. — Brilliant Circle. — Shaving Heads. — Sprig of Nobility. — A Member of Parliament. — “A two-Bottle Man.” — Gloomy Prospect. — Dinner-table Chat.

THE usual port of entry to the capital of Egypt is Bulak, which stands some distance above Shoubra, into which the strong south wind had forced us, and almost precluded the possibility of our ascending the river any farther. Shoubra is delightfully situated upon the east bank of the Nile; and is the St. Cloud, Windsor, or Potsdam of the Pacha of Egypt. Here he has a palace of much taste and splendour; beau-

tiful gardens, embellished with shrubs, fruits, and flowers; and a pavilion of great extent and magnificence. Here he usually resides when in this part of the country; and a more charming residence could hardly be imagined. Here, previously to the dissolution of the Pacha's harem, the numerous inmates, adorned with princely elegance, displayed their voluptuous charms in all the seductive extravagance peculiar to the East. But the harem having been broken up, and the Pacha being in Alexandria, occupied with the perplexing affairs of state, Shoubra presented a lonely and quiet aspect. The trees were bending beneath the yellow fruits of the season; the air was redolent with the perfumes of a thousand blossoms; and the broad fields of wheat and clover waved before the breeze in their own peculiar beauty. A few liveried servants and armed guardians of the royal abode relieved it from utter loneliness and gloom.

We made an arrangement for camels to convey ourselves and luggage to Cairo; and after handing over the usual *buckshish* to the rais and sailors, we bade them adieu, and entered the broad avenue, skirted with trees, which leads from the palace of Shoubra to the gates of the city.

We had now a sample of the cutting winds of Egypt, charged with the fine sands of the droughty plains. The atmosphere was thick and heavy, and the sun's rays struggled obscurely through the darkling gale. We endeavoured, by enveloping our faces in green veils, to screen them from the pernicious

effects of this storm of sand. These we found unavailing; we might as well have undertaken to stay Niagara's downward rush with a lady's fan. The wind pierced every thing, like a pestilential scourge. Eyes, ears, neck, and bosom were soon loaded with the gritty blast. No nook or corner escaped its piercing search. So extraordinary are these peculiar sand-gales in Egypt, that it is said the pulverized particles of dust will penetrate the shell of an egg. Nothing can be more disagreeable to encounter. We had soon traversed the distance, however, from Shoubra to the town, and entered the gates of the city. We urged our languid animals along the narrow, gloomy streets, overshadowed by the sombre Moslem dwellings which almost embraced each other above the first story, and mingled themselves into one uncouth, shapeless mass of mud, sticks, and stones. The general aspect of every thing was dusty, prison-like, and peculiar. Arabs, Armenians, Copts, Egyptians, Greeks, Jews, Syrians, and Turks were perambulating the streets, dressed in their native costumes. They had their long-stemmed pipes, and were pursuing their various avocations with all that drowsy, slothful dullness common to the subjects of the Sublime Porte. Women, shrouded in long, loose robes, and masked, were dodging their way through the dusky throng, casting their voluptuous glances as they passed, and apparently happy in all their filth and tawdry rags.

On reaching the hotel, we found it crowded, dark, dirty, and dear. It was kept by a Frank. We were, however, desirous to take up our abode in it for the



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time being ; but there were no vacant rooms in the house. All had been occupied for several days by Mr. Firkins, the Wrinklebottoms, Rintapers, and several other English parties, who had recently arrived from Arabia, Europe, India, and Palestine ; and were



AN EGYPTIAN WOMAN MASKED.

now actively engaged with the sights of the town, and in completing arrangements for their departure. After much sounding conversation on the part of "mine host" (who magnified himself into a kind of martyr, in condescending to waste his precious time and health in the wretched climate and barbarous

land of Egypt, all for the benefit and convenience of travellers like ourselves), he consented to lodge our party in two small dark rooms in a neighbouring house, and agreed to furnish us with meals at the table d'hôte for the ruinously low price of seven dollars and a half per day! He wished us, however, to understand that he came down to this losing price, and put himself to no little inconvenience, merely to *oblige* us; and that so far from its being of the least benefit to him, it was really an operation by which he would unavoidably make a considerable *sacrifice*. Nothing but his friendship for us (which seemed to have been almost as suddenly conceived as that which inspired Mr. and Mrs. Firkins on our arrival in Alexandria) could induce him to consider our necessities, and finally to take us under his paternal care and protection. His eloquence made us feel our dependance, and the burden which we were upon his shoulders, to such a degree, that we left him and his rooms in a day or two after our arrival, and took a three-story house, decently furnished, for the extravagant charge of one dollar per day! However, for the moment, there was no other way but to lay ourselves under many obligations to the *obliging* host. We were conducted into the gloomy court of our new habitation, where the camels knelt to be relieved from the burden of our luggage, which the Arabs conveyed to our lodgings.

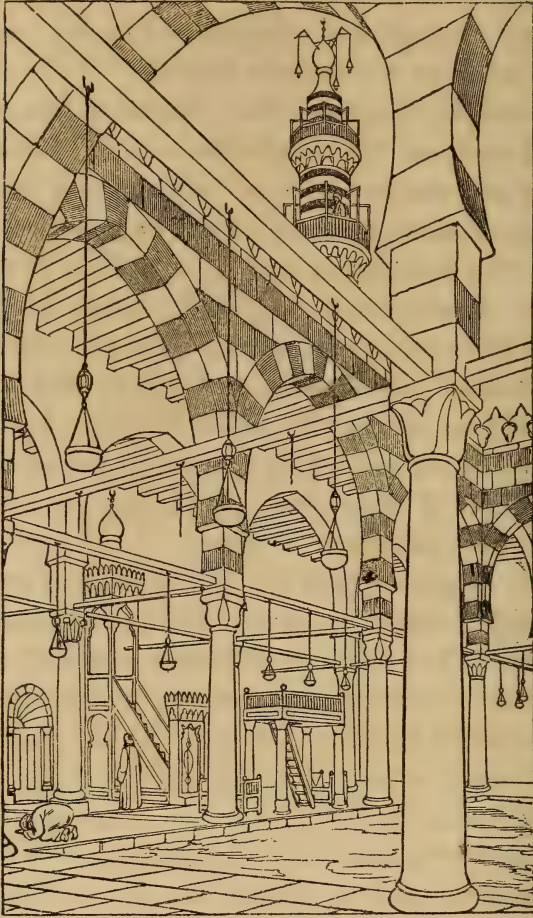
We sat down for a few moments, ruminating upon the strange scenes that had passed during the morning, when the doctor came in and proposed to take

a look about the town. We sallied forth, and wound our way through the complicated, noisy, narrow streets, until we reached the citadel.

An obliging English officer, whose acquaintance we had made on the voyage down from Trieste to Athens, and who had been in Cairo waiting the arrival of the Bombay steamer, offered to act as our cicerone. We were happy to avail ourselves of his civilities. Having been daily and actively employed in examining the town since his arrival in Cairo, and made himself quite familiar with the locality of most of the objects of general interest, he pointed out many things as we rode along that were counted among the wonders of *Musr*—the appellation given by the Arabs to the metropolis of Egypt.

Many of the edifices are well built, and some of the mosques exhibit much architectural elegance and grandeur. The mosque of Sultan Hassan,* which stands in a commanding position, is doubtless the most beautiful erection in Cairo. Its lofty and well-proportioned minaret is chaste and imposing. The principal attraction of this mosque, however, consists in its exterior beauty and embellishment. We were permitted to enter it, without our shoes; but there was little within the walls to compensate us for the trouble we took. This, we were informed, is considered by the faithful the most sacred mosque in Cairo; and it is by far the most expensive in its whole adornment and extent. We saw several shoe-

* This mosque was "constructed with the stones of the pyramids." — Wilkinson's Topography of Thebes, note, p. 334.



INTERIOR OF A MOSQUE.

less Moslems at their devotions, exercised with much apparent fervour and sincerity.

On leaving the mosque of Sultan Hassan, we rode up to the citadel, which stands upon an elevated ridge of rock, called Mukattam. The citadel *commands* the town; for which purpose it was most

probably erected. The gates were guarded by drowsy *one-eyed* soldiers, who were reclining against the walls, regardless of what was passing.



MOSLEMS AT THEIR DEVOTIONS.

In a military point of view, the citadel and the garrison did not exhibit much strength or discipline. It is doubtless of far more importance to the Pacha for keeping the dusky citizens in awe, than for any other purpose.

We entered the palace of Mehemet Ali, which stands within the enclosure of the citadel; and, but for the tempest of dust which was then driving over the surrounding plains, we should have had an extensive view up and down the vale of the Nile. The palace is a plain empty shell, with little or no furniture, except straw carpets and broad divans. It is a kind of glass house, having more large windows than

any other building in Egypt. There is a small flower-garden attached, but the whole establishment has more the appearance of a hunting-lodge of a European sportsman, than the residence of a reigning prince.

There are some other things to be looked *into*, about the citadel, and the *deepest* of them all is "Joseph's well." This extraordinary well, reaching down through the soft calcareous rock to the depth of more than two hundred and sixty feet, is nearly fifty feet in circumference at the top, and is divided into an upper and lower well, having a flight of winding stairs leading to the bottom. The water tastes a little brackish, and is supposed to be from the Nile, filtered through the rock. It is raised in buckets or earthen pots, by means of two wheels. One is upon the surface of the ground, and the other is placed at the depth of one hundred and fifty feet beneath. They are both turned by oxen. The garrison is partially supplied with the water of Joseph's well, and the surplus is used for irrigating the Pacha's garden and other little verdant spots that cheer the general gloominess of the interior of the fortress.

This well is supposed to have been excavated by the ancient Egyptians. It was, however, filled up with sand when discovered in the twelfth century by Yoosef Saladin; and was re-excavated by him, and has borne his name ever since.

This warlike prince erected a fortress upon the spot, walled it round, and built a splendid palace within the enclosure. There is nothing now left of

the palace except a few prostrate columns called the pillars of "Joseph's Hall." The shattered ruins of the Caliph's palace have been swept away to make room for an extensive mosque which the Pacha has ordered to be erected upon its site.

The new mosque had been some years in the process of erection when we were in Cairo ; and, judging from the clumsy, dilatory manner in which the Arabs were going on with the work, many years more must elapse before it is completed. The material of this new erection is, indeed, very beautiful, being a dark alabaster marble, which, in the hands of skilful workmen, could hardly fail to make an edifice of surpassing beauty and richness.

The sun, having been all day obscured by the drifting clouds of sand, now sank behind the Libyan hills. We left the citadel, and returned to the hotel. We found a brilliant party of English ladies and gentlemen assembled in the drawing-room, waiting the announcement of dinner. It was still a mechanical hour for English people to dine ; but having penetrated so far into the dark and benighted corners of the East, they no doubt thought themselves quite secure from the cavillings of the fashionable world, and were disposed to satisfy their imperious appetites, even at this early hour. Here were the Wrinklebottoms, Sir Danbury Rimtaper and his three maiden sisters, the Reverend Mr. Dunderblix, Lord Scatterberry, Colonel Builderdash, and his accomplished lady and daughter. Mr. Firkins too was subsequently of the party ; but just at that moment he was with an Arab barber,

having his head shaved. All the gentlemen present, with the exception of Sir Danbury, had gone through the same operation. They had also put on the red



AN EGYPTIAN BARBER.

caps of the country, and provided themselves with long pipes and capacious tobacco-bags. Some of them had made such extraordinary advances in the manners and customs of the Arabs, that they appeared in full costume, with flint and steel dangling at their girdles, and ample turbooshes upon their heads.

The Egyptians, as is generally known, shave their heads, and let their beards grow at full length. This pleasing feature in the barbarous habits of the Arabs, took well with the brilliant circle around us. The gentlemen had nearly all entered into it with a lively spirit, and a becoming respect for the manners and customs of the country. Mr. Wrinklebottom acted as master of ceremonies, in the absence of Mr. Firkins; and was so obliging as to give us a formal introduction to Lord Scatterberry, Sir Danbury Rimtaper and his charming sisters, Colonel Builderdash and his ladies, the Reverend Mr. Dunderblix, several officers of her Majesty's army, and sundry other personages of more moderate distinction. Colonel Builderdash, his ladies and retinue, had just arrived from Jerusalem. They had made the journey through the desert, by Gaza and El-Arish to Cairo, in twenty days! This unexampled velocity was the wonder and admiration of the whole party. The colonel appeared to be in excellent health, and Mrs. Builderdash and her daughter, with their *femme de chambre*, had borne the journey remarkably well. They had rode full *ten miles* a day, and most of the distance, on camels!—though in addition to twenty-three camels which it required to convey this interesting family and their cortege through the desert, the colonel had provided himself with mules for the ladies, so that they had at last accomplished this remarkable journey with comparative ease and comfort. They were now *the lions* of all the lions; and the measure of their gratification was full to overflowing. The

colonel was an amiable, communicative creature, and told me, *sub rosa*, that he was one of the younger sons of a noble English family, and that he was then a member of Parliament. This information was interesting to me, and it was evidently important to the colonel to disseminate it as widely as possible. He contemplated making a voyage on the Nile to the upper country; and his dragoman, valet de chambre, physician, and the young lady's drawing-master were all exceedingly busy in making arrangements for their departure. They had already engaged several of the best boats at Bulak; and little else remained to be accomplished, than to replenish their stores, and set out on the voyage.

Lord Scatterberry had been in Cairo several weeks. He had not been idle. He informed me that he had made the acquaintance of every man of *distinction* in the place. He had also seen all that was *curious*, and had nearly completed his arrangements for his departure to the cataracts of the Nile. He was a thorough emancipationist, and was a member of the House of Lords at the time of the passage of the celebrated emancipation act. He had, however, been to the slave-market that afternoon, and purchased the handsomest Nubian female slave that he could find. She was to accompany him on the voyage. He spoke of her beauty in rapturous terms; and said, "if she was a clever girl, on his return he would set her free!" Lord Scatterberry, as we subsequently learned, had been a gay young man, and immense sums had slipped through his fingers at the gaming-table, and

in other ways scarcely more to his credit. He was a professed wit; or rather prided himself upon his piquant conversational powers, and the happy satirical cuts with which he equally lashed his friends and foes. His pungent remarks had led the way to more than one duel, in which his lordship had sometimes escaped by the skin of his teeth. He was then daily suffering the penalty of his imprudence, and had the ball of one of his duelling antagonists still festering in his arm. His lordship had been married three times, but all his wives were dead. His conduct, after their decease, had marked a becoming respect for the departed, which had done much to silence the impudent and malicious ebullitions of scandal. He made a splendid and pompous funeral at the death of each of the accomplished Ladies Scatterberry, and erected magnificent monuments with endearing epitaphs over their graves. He would have married a fourth time, but decayed fortune and declining years offered some obstacles to a union suited to his inclinations and rank. His health had latterly much declined, in consequence, as he said, of his domestic afflictions, and the damp, wretched climate of England. He was limping with the gout, and his arm was handsomely suspended in a well-arranged sling. He came off to Egypt, he said, to "cheat the winter," and his hopes were high of the beneficial effects of its mild climate upon his shattered constitution.

The Reverend Mr. Dunderblix was a gentleman of immense figure and singular construction. He was full six feet five in height; broad across the shoulders;

slouching in his gait, and imperious in his expression. He had fallen in with the customs of the country so far as to shave his head and wear a red cap. He also smoked the long pipe with a gusto equal to that of any one of his countrymen. But while Mr. Dunderblix gave way to the harmless Egyptian fashion of shaving the head, letting the beard grow at large, and putting on certain tawdry and outlandish habiliments upon his person, he did not neglect the weightier matters of his *taste*, formed in earlier years, in his own country. He drank as copiously of heavy wines and strong liquors as when he reposed quietly amid all the comforts of an English home, surrounded by the dear people of his charge. He was what would be called in England, "a regular two-bottle man;" consequently he was enabled to preserve the scarlet hue of his rubicund visage, which defyingly vied in depth and vividness with the lively colour of his cap.

The general aspect and bearing of the Reverend Mr. Dunderblix was so slightly clerical, that, at first sight, he was the last man I should have taken for a clergyman. He had much more the appearance of a seafaring man; and, had he been a little more lofty in his gait, I should have taken him for a well-fed "half-pay officer" of her Majesty's navy. There was a sort of forbidding expression about the face of Mr. Dunderblix; but after the icy forms of an introduction had melted away, he became another being: he was affable, and preferred talking about his own affairs to those of other people. He informed me that he held a "living" in the south of Ireland; though,

when at 'ome, he resided in the city of Dublin! He said the condition of his parish was most lamentable. In a community of nearly one thousand souls, all of whom were *compulsory* contributors to his "living," there were not more than forty or fifty belonging to his church. All the rest were Catholics of the most confirmed and obdurate character, and would not, under any circumstances, sit under his ministry, nor pay him a single farthing except by compulsion. He said he had experienced much inconvenience and loss, and sometimes personal peril, in collecting his tithes. But now he was congratulating himself upon the favourable change that a recent act of Parliament had brought about in his affairs. This act had reduced the nominal amount of his "living" one fourth, but it had secured the punctual payment of the remaining three fourths, upon the estates of the landed proprietors. He anticipated no pecuniary embarrassments for the future, and said he could depend upon the prompt remittance of his "living" regularly each quarter-day.

Mr. Dunderblix further said: "I have already been from 'ome three years, you know; I have been travelling for my health, you know; and after a tour through Arabia and the Holy Land, you know, I contemplate a journey into Russia, Sweden, and Norway, you know. I think it may be quite two years before I will be able to return 'ome, you know, you know."

This appeared to me an easy way of performing clerical duties, and I expressed as much to the Reverend Mr. Dunderblix at the time. He informed me,

however, that nothing was more common in England. "The beneficiary," said he, "seldom attends to the active duties of the church, you know. These are matters that are left entirely to the curate, you know. If a clergyman, enjoying a *church living*, has a conscientious, efficient, industrious curate, you know, he has little or no occasion to be embarrassed with the monotonous details of the church service, you know." He informed me that he had an honest and devoted curate, who read the prayers, and went regularly through with all the forms in a manner so acceptable that every thing was done quite as satisfactorily as if he were on the spot himself.

I made some inquiries respecting the emoluments of this responsible office of curate, to a *travelling* beneficiary of the English church. Mr. Dunderblix said, "That depends, you know, sometimes more and sometimes less, you know. Twenty-five, thirty, and occasionally as much as fifty pounds sterling a year are paid to a curate, you know. The curate of my parish receives forty pounds. But he is an excellent man, and has the interest of the church quite at heart, you know, you know."

Here our interesting conversation was interrupted by Sir Danbury Rimtaper, who wished to learn if I intended to go into the upper country. I replied in the affirmative. "You will be demmed fortunate," said Sir Danbury, "if you succeed in getting a boat, 'pon honour. I have already been in Cairo three weeks, backed by all the powers of the English and American consulates; and, up to this time, I have

not been able to engage a boat of sufficient size to accommodate myself and ladies, 'pon honour." — "Possibly," said I, "you may be a little fastidious in your taste, Sir Danbury. I dare say there are boats to be had, although they may not be so large or elegant as an English gentleman could desire." — "Not a plank, 'pon honour," replied he; "there is nothing down the Nile, at present, but some demmed lousy, pent-up, nasty hulks — not decent enough to carry a convict to the gallows, 'pon honour. I want an ample boat, with four separate cabins. Each of the Misses Rimtaper must have a state-room to herself, 'pon honour."

Sir Danbury was a tall, spindle-shanked bachelor, with a bald head, hooked nose, red whiskers, and a gouty foot. He was limping about, and grumbling at every thing in Egypt; and swore "he had not seen a pretty woman since he came into the country, 'pon honour." He was a passionate admirer of the fair sex, and embellished every sentence he uttered with oaths and imprecations. He was ascending to a high pitch of fault-finding and profanity, when Mr. Firkins returned from the barber's. Dinner was then announced, and the ladies were handed down to table with considerable form.

Sir Danbury, on reaching his place, previously to taking his seat, raised a ponderous gold-mounted quizzing-glass, and brought it to bear in the most searching and amusing style upon the various dishes that were set before us. For the space of a minute, Sir Danbury passed his eye up and down the table,

and looked things unutterable. He then let his glass drop, sunk into his chair, and exclaimed, "Dem me! if this ain't dubious enough!" He looked as if every bone ached in his body. I thought he was suddenly seized with a more aggravated attack of the gout, and observed, "Sir Danbury, you must be ill."—"Ill! who the d—l could be otherwise under these circumstances? Such a dinner! John, fetch me the brandy; I'm faint, 'pon honour." Lord Scatterberry, in the mean time, had drawn up his quizzing-glass; Colonel Builderdash had pulled out his; and the Reverend Mr. Dunderblix, not a whit behind his friends, held his also in his hand. The ladies, too, were all inspecting the dinner through powerful magnifiers, and with a disaffected cast of visage. Affairs had suddenly assumed an ominous aspect, and the dinner did not promise a very happy deliverance from the melancholy dilemma. A Bologna sausage, some dried tongue, a few small fish from the Nile, a leg of mutton half boiled, two chickens, watery macaroni soup, a bottle of pepper-sauce, and several plates of onions and vinegar were placed before us. "Mine host" was all attention to his guests, and exceedingly solicitous in his inquiries to know "what kind of wine we would take?" He said "he kept none but the best, and those only from the London docks. Twelve and sixpence a bottle were the poorest wines ever ordered at table. Nothing but the best of *every thing* was allowed in his house. The reputation of his hotel was not to be trifled with; and nothing but good wine, a good table, and the

best of attendance, could sustain its present fame." He also added, that he "made a point of consulting the comfort and interest of his guests rather than his own."

After the soup, wine began to circulate pretty freely. The conversation and expression of faces assumed a little more animation. The ladies launched off into quite an amusing and interesting strain. The Misses Rimtaper were suddenly delighted with Cairo, and admired almost every thing they saw; "it was all so odd."

I happened to be rather propitiously seated, and found myself in the very centre of "rank and fashion." I had Lady Builderdash on my right, Lord Scatterberry, Sir Danbury Rimtaper, and the Misses Rimtaper opposite, and the colonel and Miss Builderdash on my left. The Wrinklebottoms grouped around the head of the table. The Reverend Mr. Dunderblix and Mr. Firkins were seated *vis-à-vis*, a little lower down. After two or three glasses, they immediately entered into an animated discussion about the church and state policy of Great Britain, and the government of Mehemet Ali. They violently disagreed, however, upon almost every point that was started. The more they endeavoured to soothe the asperity of their feelings with rather lavish libations of wine, the more fierce and alarming the fire of discord raged. At last, after a stormy sitting, during which they had emptied several bottles, Mr. Dunderblix called Mr. Firkins "a poltroon and a stupid ass, you know;" and Mr. Firkins retorted that Mr. Dun-

derblix was "an infernal hypocrite, and was no more deserving the 'church living' which he held in Ireland, than he (Mr. F.) merited the throne of Turkey."

Lord Scatterberry attacked me upon the slave question. He said slavery was one of the greatest evils and abominations of the United States. I defended myself and country as well as I could, and observed to his lordship that slavery was one of those blessings entailed upon us by the mother country; an inheritance which, up to the present time, we had not been able to shake off. I told his lordship, also, that I believed a large number of the people of the United States were opposed to slavery; but it was the opinion of some of the most intelligent citizens of the Union that it was nevertheless a subject of extreme delicacy, and ought to be treated with caution and wisdom. Some wholesome preparatory measures were supposed to be absolutely indispensable to the slave, previously to his emancipation, in order that he might enjoy the full benefit of his freedom. I was aware that England had acted with other views in emancipating the black population of her colonial possessions in the West Indies; but it was supposed by many that the experiment had not been satisfactorily tested; and it still remained a question with some of his countrymen, whether the condition of the blacks had been much improved by the philanthropic course of Parliament in their behalf.

His lordship rejoined: "It will never do for an American to talk of freedom, so long as there is a slave owned by a citizen of the United States." I

observed, in reply, that I had heard much about freedom and the inalienable rights of man, in my rambles through Great Britain, but I was greatly mistaken if the slaves in the United States were not as much civilized, as intelligent, as well fed, and as happy as a large proportion of the wretched peasantry in his own country; and, if it were considered to be an act of such criminality, as his lordship supposed, to become the owner of a slave, I could not but be surprised at what his lordship had done on that day in the slave-market of Cairo!—Whereupon his lordship requested the pleasure of taking wine with me, and the slave question dropped into our glasses, and was not again revived.



ONE OF JOHNNY BULL'S FREE AND HAPPY SUBJECTS.

“I am trusted with a muzzle, and enfranchised with a clog.”

SHAKESPEARE.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Rimtapers, Wrinklebottoms, and Cats. — Moslem Bequest. — Sacred Animals of Egypt. — Feast of Mr. Firkins. — Disaster and Fright. — Theatrical Novelty, and Fashionable Squeeze.

THE three enchanting Misses Rimtaper had all passed the meridian splendour of their teens some twenty years before, which threw them on the shady side of forty. They were passionately fond of oddities : thereby affording further illustration of the fact that "all things are after their kind." They were enabled, however, through the transforming influences of dentists, perruquiers, milliners, and perfumers, still to keep up a fashionable form and figure ; and they displayed their charms at the dinner-table with much success. They made a good many of what might be called "capital hits;" one of which was an accidental thrust of the elbow in the side of Lord Scatterberry, which nearly threw his lordship into convulsions. Another, that produced no little sensation at the time, was an unfortunate crush of a delicate slipper upon the gouty foot of Sir Danbury Rimtaper, who roared out applaudingly, "Curse me, if I'm not to be flayed alive!" The tone of their conversation touched a high key, and they burst into a

strain of touching eloquence, during an animated discussion with the Wrinklebottoms, upon the important subject of the *public cats*!

Both the Rintapers and the Wrinklebottoms had passed the morning at the ckadee's, where they had been to see that distinguished functionary feed the houseless cats of Cairo. They were all delighted with "this extraordinary *spectarkal*," and thought it second only in interest to the *snakery* of Mr. Sneezebiter. They were unanimous upon this point, but upon almost every thing else they very much differed in opinion.

The comparative beauty of the cats was an exciting theme, and one which kindled the whole party into more warmth and animation than any other that was started during their entertaining debate. The Rintapers greatly preferred the cats with white feet and black noses; and the Wrinklebottoms, while they affected equal detestation and horror of these, were enraptured with those which had black tails and spotted faces. It seemed to be impossible for them to agree upon this important question; which, after all, was a mere matter of taste. At length, they referred the whole matter to Sir Danbury, and desired to know what was his candid opinion about it. Sir Danbury replied, with characteristic urbanity and chasteness, that "he'd be d——d if he could tell which were the handsomest; he couldn't, 'pon honour!" Here the subject of the cats was dropped by common consent, and the conversation turned upon other topics of equal interest.

It is a singular and good-natured provision of the Moslems—though it may be doubted by intelligent persons at a distance, yet it is nevertheless a fact—that the *public cats* are daily fed by the *ckadee* of Cairo; and considerable sums have frequently been left, at the death of Moslems, in aid of the funds for this charity. “The Sooltan Ez-Zahir Beyburs bequeathed a garden, which is called *gheyt el-ckoottah* (or the Garden of the Cats), near his mosque, in the north of Cairo, for their benefit.”* But, although the funds left for the support of the houseless cats were, at one time, quite ample, owing to the mismanagement and profligacy of his predecessors, “almost the whole expense of supporting them has fallen upon the *ckadee*, who, by reason of his office, is the guardian of this and all other charitable and pious legacies. Latterly, however, the duty of feeding the cats has been very inadequately performed. Many persons in Cairo, when they wish to get rid of a cat, send or take it to the *ckadee*’s house, and let it loose in the great court.”† The Moslems evince a surprising fondness for this animal, especially the tom, and allow it to be not only a constant companion of their children, but permit it to eat out of the same dish with themselves.

Cats in Egypt are said to be much more teachable than in Europe. “The cat and dog are not there the emblems of discord.”‡

The tender regard manifested by the modern Egyp-

* Lane’s *Modern Egyptians*, i. p. 393.

† *Ibid.*

‡ *Wilkinson’s Ancient Egyptians*, iii. p. 44.

tians toward the cat, naturally reminds one of the esteem in which these animals were held by their ancestors; by whom, one would suppose from the care with which they were embalmed after death, they were considered very sacred. Many of the Egyptians think it wrong to kill the cat, or even to ill-treat it; though they do not now, as anciently, shave off their eyebrows at their death. "In whatever family a cat by accident happens to die," says Herodotus, "every individual cuts off his eyebrows; but on the death of a dog, they shave their heads and every part of their bodies."*

The regard in which all the sacred animals were held by the ancient Egyptians, is certainly very surprising. "When any one of them dies," says Diodorus, "they wrap it in fine linen, and with howling beat upon their breasts, and so carry it forth to be salted; and then, after having anointed it with the oil of cedar and other things, which both give the body a fragrant smell, and preserve it a long time from putrefaction, they bury it in a secret place. He that wilfully kills any one of these beasts, is to suffer death; but if any kill a *cat* or the bird Ibis, whether wilfully or otherwise, he is certainly dragged away to death by the multitude, and sometimes most cruelly, without any formal trial or judgment of law. And such is the religious veneration impressed upon the hearts of men toward these creatures, and so obstinately is every one bent to adore and worship them, that even at the time when the Romans were

* Herod. ii. 66.

making a league with Ptolemy, and all the people made it their great business to caress and show all civility and kindness imaginable to them that came out of Italy, and through fear strove all they could that no occasion might in the least be given to disgrace them, or be the cause of a war; yet it so happened, that upon a *cat's* being killed by a Roman, the people in a tumult ran to his lodging, and neither the prince sent by the king to dissuade them, nor the fear of the Romans, could deliver the person from the rage of the people, though he did it against his will; and this I relate not by hearsay, but was myself an eye-witness of it at the time of my travels in Egypt.”*

The solicitude of the ancient Egyptians for the safety of this object of their extreme veneration, seems to have occasioned them no little pain and trouble. In the city of New York, with all the penalties of our fires, follies, and whims thick upon us, we have abundant reason, perhaps, to congratulate ourselves that the love and veneration for cats do not glow in our breasts with that fervour which warmed the bosoms of the old Egyptians. Were that the case, the town would be burnt down over our heads a dozen times a day, and we should have little left but the smouldering ashes of its ruin and our cats. “In every accident of fire,” says Herodotus, “the cats seem to be actuated by some supernatural impulse; for the Egyptians, surrounding the place which is burning, appear to be occupied with

* Diod. i. 84.

no thought but that of preserving their cats. These, however, by stealing between the legs of the spectators, or by leaping over their heads, endeavour to dart into the flames. This circumstance, whenever it happens, diffuses universal sorrow. In whatever family a cat by accident happens to die, every individual cuts off his eyebrows.”*

Herodotus also observes, that “the cats, when dead, are carried to sacred buildings, and after being salted, are buried in the city Bubastis.”†

“It is reported,” says Diodorus, “that at a time when there was a famine in Egypt, many were driven to that strait, that by turns they fed one upon another; but not a man was accused to have in the least tasted of any of these sacred creatures. And when they have been abroad in the wars in foreign countries, they have with great lamentation brought dead cats with them into Egypt; when, in the mean time, they have been ready to starve for the want of provision.”‡

Immediately upon the abrupt and discourteous termination of the conversation between Mr. Firkins and the Reverend Mr. Dunderblix, Mr. Firkins rose from the table, and repaired, with a hurried and tottering gait, to the great open court of the hotel. Here he received the uproarious salutation of some fifty or sixty mule-drivers; who, in accordance with an invitation from Mr. Firkins, sent out the day previous, had assembled to pay their respects to him, and to partake of a repast prepared for their entertainment. It was

* Herod. ii. 66.

† Ibid. ii. 67.

‡ Diod. i. 84.

a dirty, ragged, jovial throng, but perhaps no less interesting to Mr. Firkins on that account, nor less amusing for our contemplation. Mr. Firkins was perfectly at home among them; and gave them a reception worthy of his own character and that of his guests. Here, as elsewhere, he acted in perfect keeping with his well-established reputation, and endeavoured to make an impression that would not easily pass away. He had hired several Arab musicians, who were mounted upon a platform placed on one side of the court, and supported by some empty water-casks. After the warmth of the salutations had a little subsided, the musicians, at a significant and lofty wave of the hand by Mr. Firkins, struck up a kind of doleful overture, and began to rend the air with their music. When the band commenced, the half-naked cooks, in large white turbans, emerged from the greasy kitchen of the hotel, bearing upon a rough board a whole sheep roasted, and stuffed with garlic. There was also a large kettle of maccaroni soup, several baskets of bread, and a back-load of raw carrots and onions. Mr. Firkins now attempted to proceed in the distribution of the sumptuous feast, with some little decency and form; but all his efforts to maintain any thing like order among his voracious guests, were ineffectual. The moment the cooks advanced into the court, the hungry ragamuffins rushed upon them in a confused mass, overturned the soup, and, seizing the sheep, bread, and vegetables, began to tear and devour the whole, regardless of the loud

remonstrances of their host, and without the least respect for each other.



MUSICIANS OF EGYPT.

The scene was absolutely frightful. Mr. Firkins, in his endeavours to restore order, had the old sheep

drawn around his neck by two adverse parties, pulling in opposite directions with might and main, each desirous to possess the rich viand. Mr. Firkins was at last thrown down and nearly trampled under foot.

The noise and uproar grew more astounding every moment; and as the crowd continued to quarrel among themselves for the mastery of the smoking viands and savoury dressing, they moved toward the band of musicians; and at length, in their clamorous scuffle, rudely overturned the water-casks upon which rested the temporary orchestra, and tumbled the musicians, with their corn-stalk fiddles, kettle-drums, tambourines, and darabookas heels over head to the ground.

The fight for the spoils now became general. The musicians unsparingly used their broken instruments over the heads and shoulders of their assailants, and endeavoured to lay hold of some portion of the tattered sheep, which flew from hand to hand, with more velocity than ceremony. Corbashes, fists, sticks, whips, and fragments of ruined fiddles were dealt around in profusion. The shouts and yells of the combatants were hideous.

Mr. Firkins, with some difficulty, gathered himself up from under the feet of his guests, and made his escape into the hotel. The landlord, having become alarmed, sent for some of the Pachá's one-eyed soldiers, who came in and dispersed the mob at the point of the bayonet.

This mortifying and almost tragical termination of Mr. Firkins's entertainment, was by no means

flattering to his vanity, or creditable to the breeding of his guests. He presented a most pitiable plight when he came up stairs. He was besmeared with the grease and stuffing of the sheep from head to foot. He had lost his hat in the scuffle, and his coat was rent in several places. His face was covered with dirt and grease, and the blood was running from his nose.

Mr. Dunderblix appeared highly delighted with the whole scene. He met Mr. Firkins as he entered the room, and critically surveying him from top to toe through his quizzing-glass, burst into a roar of laughter. The ladies huddled around Mr. Firkins, all condolence; but the figure which Mr. F. cut was so "very peculiar," that they found it absolutely impossible to maintain a respectful gravity.

Sir Danbury Rimtaper, having hobbled down from the balcony where he had witnessed the strange proceedings just terminated in the court, came up, raised his quizzing-glass deliberately to his eye, and after surveying Mr. Firkins for a moment, exclaimed,—"Dem me, Firkins, if this isn't the most extraordinary spectacle that I've witnessed since I've been in Egypt! I never saw any one look more *sheepish* in the whole course of my life, 'pon honour!"

Lord Scatterberry had crawled along toward the gathering, with his quizzing-glass swinging upon his breast, which he suddenly raised to his eye: then letting it as suddenly drop, and holding it half suspended in his right hand, said, with an air of astonishment, "Why, Firkins, is that you? Where the

d—I have you been? Curse me if you don't look as if you had been an extensive traveller in *Greece!*"

The whole household was now collecting around; some were condoling with the sufferer, and others were laughing at his misfortunes, but all were astonished at his sudden metamorphosis.

Poor Firkins appeared to be so mortified and dejected that he could not utter a word. He saw that all eyes were fastened upon him, and that he was likely to become the butt of the whole party. He suddenly buttoned up his coat to his chin, pressed his hat over his forehead, plunged his hands deep into his breeches pockets, wheeled about upon his heels, and marched out of the room in a tornado of rage, from straps to whiskers; and I never saw him from that day to this! Like the witches in *Macbeth*, he "melted into air;" and, to quote a line from the witticisms of the late Secretary of the Navy, J. K. Paulding, Esq., nothing was ever afterward seen of him in Cairo, "except a *grease-spot* on the place where he stood!"

The excitement occasioned by the disastrous termination of Mr. Firkins's feast soon subsided; and, having been presented with tickets, we accompanied Colonel Builderdash, Sir Danbury Rintaper and their ladies, the Wrinklebottoms, and the Reverend Mr. Dunderblix to the theatre.

A theatre in Cairo was a novelty. It had been got up by the resident Franks, in a hasty manner, to accommodate two or three "brief, abstract chroniclers of the times" from Italy, of whom, it is said,

“you had better have a bad epitaph after your death, than their ill report while you live.” The Spanish consul and several other amateurs took parts in the performance. The house was crowded to suffocation. Fortunately, however, we were accompanied by distinguished personages, whose *rank* was appreciated by the officers at the door. They forced a passage some how or other, so that we contrived to follow, and we succeeded in wedging ourselves in the dense mass of assembled spectators.

The piece selected for the occasion was a kind of *tragi-comico opera*, done in barbarous Italian. The players were full of energy and gesticulation, and trod the stage like English gipsies and Spanish bandits. They raved, ranted, and bawled themselves hoarse in their endeavours to please the audience; and, judging from the rapturous applause which they elicited, they succeeded to the utmost of their ambition. The spectators stamped, clapped, shouted, and often drowned the bellowing of the actors. They applauded every thing, good, bad, and indifferent; and the whole affair appeared to me to be what is called, in green-room phrase, “a decided hit.”

We had not long mingled in the gay and joyous throng, before we found ourselves in a foam of perspiration. The heat engendered by the vociferous and energetic applause of the audience, inflated the theatre like a steam-boiler; and rendered a vapour-bath, “if not a matter of choice,” as the politicians say of a national bank, “one of supreme necessity.” To get out of the house was more difficult

than it had been to get in; nor could we effect an egression from our melting situation, until an armed janizary penetrated the crowd with drawn sword, and escorted us to the door.

This was the first night of the theatre, and all the "rank and fashion" of Cairo were in attendance. The scene was truly novel and exciting. There were a large number of Levantine ladies present,



LEVANTINE COSTUME.

and their appearance was worthy of commendation. Some of them were beautiful. All were gorgeously

arrayed in brilliant and rich costume. They wore their long glossy hair parted in front, and braided in numerous plaits, thickly spangled with gold ornaments, and hanging at full length down the back. Over a red turboosh, with long tassel, spangled with gold, they wore a neatly-embroidered turban, adorned with brilliants. They also had on, over their loose striped raw silk dress, a short jacket of fine cloth or velvet, richly embroidered and faced with gold lace. These showy habiliments of the ladies seemed to be in perfect keeping with the red caps and flowing dresses of the gentlemen; and, all combined, they formed one of the most singular groups that I have ever witnessed.



CHAPTER XXVIII.

Interview with the Consul at Cairo. — Description of his Audience-hall. — Incidental Attack. — Egyptian Janizary. — Bridal Procession. — Marriage Contracts. — Match-making Brokers. — Bridal Dowries. — Law respecting Matrimony. — Wives and Concubines. — Law of Divorce. — Blessings of Fruitfulness, and Curse of Barrenness. — Ancient Marriage Customs. — Cheap Mode of raising Children.

HAVING several introductory letters to the elder Mr. G——, acting consul at Cairo in the absence of his son, who was on an excursion of pleasure for the winter in the upper country, I called upon him the morning after my arrival. It was past ten o'clock when we were ushered into the audience-chamber of the consul, but the great "*official*" was not "quite ready to receive." This chamber of the consul's was "a specimen of the tallest" room of its size that I have any recollection of ever entering. It was about twenty-five feet long by fifteen feet in width, and it appeared to be at least thirty feet in height. There was an old straw carpet on the floor, and the ceiling was "done off" with rough boards and palm beams. A wide calico divan was run round on three sides; and a broad and lofty window, partly covered with

lattice-work, looked out upon a gloomy court. At the further end, about six feet from the floor, hung a six-by-eight snuff-coloured board, on which was daubed the eagle, and the stripes and stars of the United States. High above this caricature of the arms of my country, were suspended, in disdainful contrast, and in fiery colours, the royal arms of Great Britain. In the centre of the room stood a small, low table, covered with a faded dusty green spread, upon which were a late number of the "London Times," a small black glass inkstand, a pewter syringe, a little piece of sponge, and a tall vial half filled with some kind of liquid resembling dirty goose-oil, with a long hen's feather stuck into the neck of it. These, and one old chair, as near as I can recollect, comprised the sum total of the "fixtures" of the audience-hall of the consul.

I dropped down upon the divan, awaiting the pleasure of the "great official," and was casting my eyes alternately from one interesting object to another about the room, when my attention was most sensibly attracted by an attack made upon my right hand and arm, which rested upon the large cotton pillow at my back. I found, to my horror, that I was in a nest of fleas! This seat becoming any thing but a bed of roses, I got up, and had strode up and down this lofty apartment several times, when I heard the mincing footsteps of the consular functionary, and immediately thereafter a tall, gray-headed, pousy figure, in *robe de chambre* and Turkish slippers, stood before me, with an inquisitive, supercilious expres-

sion of visage, which said, as plain as look can speak, "To what may I attribute the honour of this unwelcome visit of yours at such an abominable mail-carrying hour in the morning?" Here was the object of my search—the consular dignitary—the real "Baron Pompolino," as some of his friends in Alexandria called him. I had had an amusing description of this personage and his manners by our Boston acquaintance, at Alexandria. He put on an air of great pomposity, and appeared conceited, insincere, and vain. He was just the picture that I had formed in my mind, from the description I had already received of him.

After a slight inclination of the head on the part of "Baron Pompolino," which I respectfully returned, I observed to him, that I had the honour to be the bearer of several letters, which I came to present to him in person: hoping that I had not disturbed him by calling at so early an hour.

Without making any reply, he took the letters, tore off the envelopes, and threw the pieces on the floor, with most "official" dignity and *hauteur*. He opened one of the letters; and, casting his eye down to the bottom, saw the name of the American minister at Constantinople; and then asking me to take a seat, he proceeded to read them all. Having run his eyes over the letters in a hurried manner, he deliberately placed them under the pewter syringe on the table, near to which he drew up a chair, and commenced a formal string of catechetical interrogatories about my journey, railroads, steamboats, canals, governors, and

statesmen; and finally wanted to know who I thought would be the next President of the United States!

To all of the numerous interrogatives of "Baron Pompolino," which were put in a kind of country-schoolmaster style, I gave such answers as their importance seemed to demand; after which I ventured to make a few inquiries about the affairs of Egypt, and the best mode for a stranger to pursue, wishing to see and become acquainted with the great objects of interest in that country. But in all these matters, although a resident of Egypt for nearly twenty years, he seemed about as ignorant as an old Egyptian mummy, just pulled out of the tombs, by some of the English resurrectionists, for dissection. Our interview soon became rather cheerless; and after taking a little cup of black coffee with *Monsieur le Baron*, and receiving the stereotyped offer of "his janizary to conduct us round the city"—I was about to depart; when in came Mr. J——, a citizen of the United States, to whom I had also a letter of introduction.

Mr. J—— had been in Cairo about a year; and knew something of the Arabic language, as well as the tricks that are played by the inhabitants upon strangers. He was also acquainted with all the interesting localities in the city and vicinity; and, being a man of leisure, he very obligingly offered to show us every thing of interest, and to aid us in making the necessary arrangements for our contemplated excursion to Thebes and the cataracts of the Nile. I was too happy to take him at his word. But he had not been with us two days, when, being met by the

Egyptian janizary of the consul, he was told that, "by showing us the curiosities of the town, he *was taking the bread out of his* (the janizary's) *mouth!*"

This janizary, like most other personages of similar rank attached to the doors of foreign consulates in the uncivilized countries of the East, was a kind of armed porter, serving the consul for little or nothing, besides protection from the exactions of his own government, with the expectation (and possibly the promise) of enriching himself by thrusting his valueless services upon all strangers pilgrims who might, like ourselves, wend their way to the metropolis of Egypt. He could speak very little else but Arabic, and had the reputation of leaguering himself with his countrymen against the interests of whatever strangers he might have under his care. In addition to his share of the sums arising from the joint peculations of himself and all others of his nation with whom he might bring the stranger in contact, he expected, and generally received, about twenty piastres per day. This was the protecting genius whom the amiable consul proposed to place over me; and he was not a little miffed, I believe, that I did not at once put myself and party under his banners. The obliging offer of Mr. J—— rendered that unnecessary. Taking leave of the consul, we rode down to Bulak, in quest of a boat and crew, for the continuance of our excursion up the Nile.

After an ineffectual search for some time among the sailors of Bulak, we returned to Cairo. We were loitering among the stalls of the bazar, when

we suddenly found ourselves wedged in on all sides, by a dense mass of beings of the most mixed, various,



TURKISH BAZAR.

and hideous aspect. They came upon us like the locusts of old, and nearly overwhelmed us before we found out what was the meaning of such a rush of men, women, children, horses, camels, dogs, and dust. We sought and found a safe retreat from the crush of the crowd, in a little nook on one side of a tinker's stall; and, as the long stream of animated objects poured through the narrow passage, we learned that it was a bridal procession! The bride was on her way to her future lord, whom, as yet, she had never seen! She was a person of some distinction, as we were informed, and as a stranger even might have

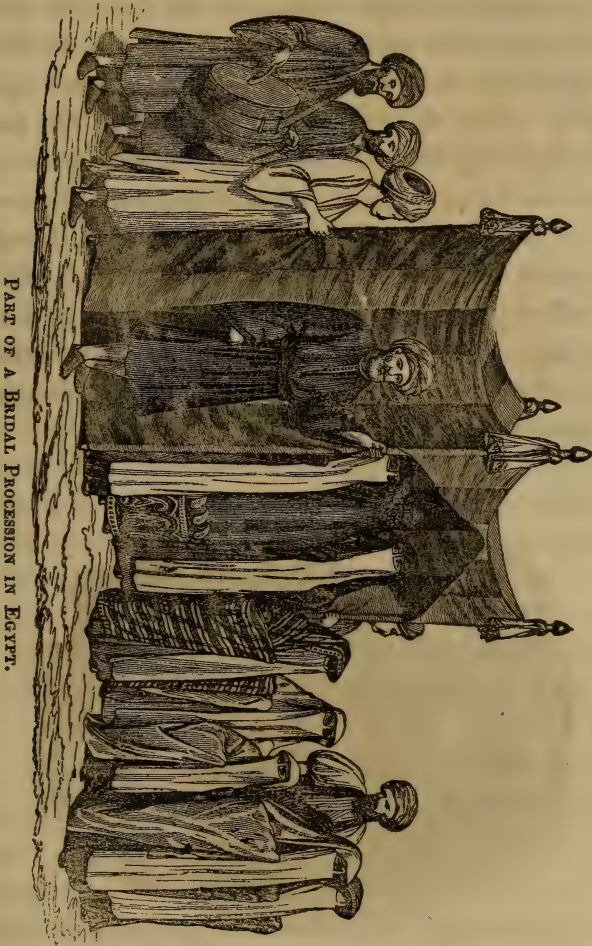
supposed, from the parade and show. It were impossible to give an adequate description of the singular appearance of this strange mingled mass, as they



PART OF A BRIDAL PROCESSION IN EGYPT.

moved forward to the tinkling and jarring sounds of music that "marred all tune," and added an exciting wildness to the scene. The procession was headed by

some half-blind musicians. Next came a crowd of women, enveloped in black silk, and wearing long white masks. Then the bride approached. She was



PART OF A BRIDAL PROCESSION IN EGYPT.

completely shrouded in an immense Cashmere shawl, richly embroidered round the edges, and reaching down to her feet. She wore a small coronet, decked

with brilliants, and was led by two women in long white masks, and dressed in black silk. The bride and her attendants walked along at a slow pace, under an ample canopy, supported by four old men. Then came more musicians, two of whom were beating upon two kettle-drums each, and mounted upon camels. After these, followed a crowd of old men. A fantastically-dressed individual on stilts now appeared in the procession. The stilts were about six feet in height, so that, as the fellow strided through the bazar, his feet were on a level with the heads of the tallest persons. Another crowd of old men and boys succeeded the gentleman on stilts; after whom bounded a number of dancing-girls, begging, dancing, and playing upon tambourines.



DANCING-WOMEN OF THE EAST.

A noble Arabian horse, splendidly caparisoned, and led by his groom, now appeared. Another beautiful

horse, led also by a groom, and as pompously decorated as the first, next came, rode by a small boy, gayly dressed and supported by two men, who slowly walked on each side. The boy was followed by a kind of gilded ark, borne upon men's shoulders. Then came another camel, and more men ; and the uproar, dust, and abomination succeeded, and made up altogether, as Sir Danbury Rimtaper would have said, "the most extraordinary spectacle that I had seen since I came into Egypt, 'pon honour !"

The bride had previously been to the bath with great form, according to custom. The marriage contract had been performed at the house of the bride, by proxy on her part, and she was now being conducted to her destined home. Her intended was no less in the dark respecting the personal charms of the object of his affections, than she was in regard to those of him under whose protection she was about to place herself.

So discreetly is the marriage arrangement conducted in Egypt, that the intended parties can scarcely obtain a glance of each other, even by stealth, unless they belong to the lower classes ; in which case, the bridegroom may generally see the face of his intended without much difficulty. But should they unfortunately move in the "higher circles," the bridegroom would be quite ignorant of the value of his prize until she was absolutely in his possession. One would naturally suppose that the husband about to lift the veil for the first time from the face of his bride, must experience feelings of a peculiar nature ; and

should he be a youth whose glowing fancy had pictured to his mind an object of surpassing beauty, the state of his feelings, on raising the veil from his wife, should she chance to be a person of exceeding ugliness, may be more easily imagined than described.

Marriage contracts in Egypt are generally effected through the agency of near relations, or a class of individuals who may not inappositely be termed marriage-brokers. The parties to be united rarely or never have any thing to do with the preliminaries or the final accomplishment of the marriage agreement, further than to authorize their lawful agents to enter upon negotiations for that purpose. Most commonly the mother, sister, or some other near female relative, describes the personal attractions and qualifications of some one of her acquaintances to the man desirous to be married, and makes the selection for him. Should he have no female relatives to whom he could confide this important commission, the order is placed in the hands of a woman, whose regular occupation is to aid men in search of the "better half."

The commission given by Abraham to his eldest servant,* who was to obtain a wife for Isaac, was not dissimilar, perhaps, to the mode of procedure in many cases in Egypt at the present day.

The marriage-broker visits the various harems, where she does not fail to be introduced to all the inmates who are of marriageable age. She then returns to her employer with an account of her discoveries. She represents some of the ladies that she

* Gen. xxiv.

has seen as possessing great beauty ; others, not so attractive in personal charms, but rich. The man desirous of obtaining a wife, if satisfied with her report, makes her a present, and sends her back to the family of the object of his choice, to acquaint them of his request. She gives an exaggerated account of his wealth, beauty, and excellent qualities. “ For instance, she will say of a very ordinary young man, of scarcely any property, and of whose disposition she knows nothing, ‘ My daughter, the youth who wishes to marry you is young, graceful, elegant, beardless, has plenty of money, dresses handsomely, is fond of delicacies, but cannot enjoy his luxuries alone ; he wants you as his companion ; he will give you any thing that money can procure ; he is a stayer-at-home, and will spend his whole time with you, caressing and fondling you.’ The parents may betroth their daughter to whom they please, and marry her to him without her consent, if she be not arrived to the age of puberty ; but, after she has attained that age, she may choose a husband for herself, and appoint any man to arrange and effect the marriage.”*

A marriage portion must in all cases be paid by the bridegroom to his wife. Generally, however, only a part of it is paid before the marriage contract is performed ; the balance being reserved to be handed over to the wife at the time she may be divorced (should that event happen), or at the death of the husband, should she survive him. The amount of the bridal dowry depends upon the wealth of the

* Lane's Modern Egyptians, i. 216, 217.

parties to be married, and is usually a subject of some higgling on the part of those who negotiate the match. A much larger sum is usually demanded at first by the friends of the bride, than she expects to receive ; while the agent of the bridegroom is instructed to offer an amount considerably below what he is willing ultimately to give. But after a little chaffering over the matter, the bargain is clinched at a price somewhere between the amounts already named ; and both parties doubtless enjoy the silent satisfaction of believing that they have made an excellent bargain.

If the parties are in decent circumstances, and enjoying an income competent to a respectable style of living, a dowry of about one hundred dollars is considered a handsome thing ; though sometimes, under similar circumstances, scarcely half that amount is given. This, however, applies only to females in their first marriage, or virgin brides ; while those who may have been once or oftener divorced, or widows, receive a much smaller amount.

When the parents or friends of the bride are in prosperous circumstances, she is usually presented at the time of her marriage with a decent outfit of furniture, jewels, and dresses ; all of which are paraded through the streets on camels, and form a part of the bridal procession. But where the bride happens to be of the lower classes, her parents generally make as good a bargain as they can for themselves, pocket the marriage dowry, and return very little else to the bridegroom except his bride.

This would seem to be scarcely more honourable than the ancient custom that prevailed among the Assyrians, if so much so ; who, says Herodotus, “ assembled together such of their virgins as were marriageable, at an appointed time and place, and some public officer sold them by auction, one by one, beginning with the most beautiful. When one was disposed of, and, as may be supposed, for a considerable sum, he proceeded to sell the one who was next in beauty, taking it for granted that each man *married* the maid he purchased. The crier, when he had sold the fairest, selected next the most ugly, or one that was deformed ; she also was put up to sale, and assigned to whomsoever would take her with the least money. This money was what the sale of the most beautiful maidens had produced, who were thus obliged to portion out those who were deformed, or less lovely than themselves. No man was permitted to provide a match for his daughter, nor could any one take away the woman he had purchased, without first giving security *to make her his wife.*”*

“ The law respecting marriage and concubinage, though express as to the number of wives whom the Moslem may have at the same time, namely, *four*, is not considered by the less strict as perfectly explicit with regard to the number of concubines he may keep. It is written : ‘ Take in marriage, of the women who please you, two, three, or four ; but if ye fear that ye cannot act equitably [to so many], take one ; or take those whom your right hands have ac-

* Herod. i. 196.

quired,' that is, slaves, (Koran, chap. iv. 5, 3.) Many of the wealthy Moslems, interpreting this text according to their desires, marry two, three, or four wives, and keep, besides, several concubine slaves."* With the exception of the priests, who could only marry one, it was the custom of the ancient Egyptians, says Diodorus, "to have as many wives as they pleased; and all were bound to bring up as many children as they could, for the further increase of the inhabitants, which tends much to the well-being either of a city or country."†

Notwithstanding this liberal license, however, Herodotus informs us that the ancient Egyptians, "like the Greeks, confined themselves to one wife."‡ This assertion is nevertheless contradicted: "That the Greeks did not confine themselves to one wife, we learn from certain authority. Euripides was known to be a woman-hater; 'but,' says Hume, 'it was because he was coupled to two noisy vixens.'"

"Of the marriage contracts of the Egyptians," says Wilkinson, "we are entirely ignorant, nor do we find the ceremony represented in the paintings of their tombs. We may, however, conclude that they were regulated by the customs usual among civilized nations."§

The strange custom of marrying brothers and sisters was not uncommon in Egypt in her most enlightened days. And the marriage of Osiris and Isis,|| the revered deities of Egypt, who were also

* Lane's *Modern Egyptians*, i. 137.

† Diod. i. 82.

‡ Herod. ii. 92. Vide note 172. § Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, ii. 58.

|| Diod. i. 27-32.

brother and sister, is supposed to have given peculiar authority and sanctity to this practice.

“Many individuals, even among the priesthood of early Pharaonic periods, are found, from the sculptures of Thebes, to have married their sisters; and the same authorities agree with the accounts of ancient Greek and Roman writers, in proving that some of the Ptolemies adopted this ancient custom.”* This custom doubtless prevailed among the people of Abraham, who also married his sister, and said of his wife, “And yet indeed she is my sister: she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother: and she became my wife.”†

The Athenians, likewise, who “were a colony of the Saites, which came out of Egypt,”‡ are said to have adopted the Egyptian custom of marrying brother and sister;§ and the connexion of Jupiter and Juno, who were reported to be brother and sister, was no doubt derived from the fabulous account of Osiris and Isis. Herodotus says, that before Cambyses, “no Persian had ever been known to marry his sister; but he, being passionately fond of one of his, married the sister he loved, and not long afterward a second. The younger of these, who accompanied him to Egypt, he put to death.”||

Many of the modern Egyptians do not avail themselves of the full extent of their religious license, which allows them four wives; and still more dispense with the addition of slaves and concubines. Some, for

* Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, Second Series, i. 385.

† Gen. xx. 12. ‡ Diod. i. 34. § Herod. iii. 31, note. || Ibid. iii. 31.

the sake of domestic peace, or other reasons, content themselves with one or two wives, and keep no slaves or concubines at all. Others prefer to keep one or more female slaves, and dispense with the more expensive establishment of the wives altogether.

It is usual for each wife, when there are more than one, to occupy separate rooms; and even with these arrangements, the jealousies that frequently spring up in the harem render the establishment more like *Bedlam*, than the quiet abode of the Christian, who is satisfied with one wife. "Though a man restrict himself to a single wife, he may change as often as he desires; and there are certainly not many men in *Cairo* who have not divorced one wife, if they have been long married. The husband may, whenever he pleases, say to his wife, 'Thou art divorced:' if it be his wish, whether reasonable or not, she must return to her parents or friends."*

The liability of a wife to be turned off at any moment by her husband, and in very frequent instances to be cast out destitute upon the world, occasions more uneasiness among the *Egyptian* women than any other circumstance attending their degraded lives. Sometimes, however, the consoling hope of being able to better their condition in a second, third, or fourth marriage, as the case may be, quite balances the poignancy consequent upon a divorcement. They occasionally seize with avidity the first opportunity that offers for their legal separation.

Instances have occurred, where the husband, hav-

* *Lane's Modern Egyptians*, i. 247.

ing divorced his wife in a passion, wished, in a cooler moment, to recall his hasty words ; but she, desirous of being released from the annoyance of his caprice and tyranny, and to try her fortune again in a new alliance, refused to return to him, and availed herself of the legal steps for continuing the separation.

A woman may be legally taken back by her husband after a divorcement, provided she has not been divorced by him more than twice. After a third divorce, however, she cannot be legally taken to wife again by him who has thus divorced her, until she first be married to another husband ; and, having been divorced by him, she may then return to her first love, and marry her old husband, who has already thrice turned her adrift upon the world.

“ The estimation in which the wife is held by her husband and acquaintance, depends in a great degree upon her fruitfulness, and upon the preservation of her children. By all classes, rich and poor, barrenness is still considered in the East a curse and a reproach ; and it is regarded as disgraceful in a man to divorce, without some cogent reason, a wife who has borne him a child, especially while her child is living. If, therefore, a woman desire her husband’s love, or the respect of others, her giving birth to a child is a source of great joy to herself and him ; and her own interest alone is a sufficient motive for maternal tenderness. Very little expense is required, in Egypt, for the maintenance of a numerous offspring.”* Indeed, so great a blessing and honour is the bearing of many children considered by both sexes in the East,

* Lane’s Modern Egyptians, i. 80.

that a higher or more flattering compliment could hardly be paid to a young lady than to wish her well married, and that she may be the mother of a large number of children.

On the birth of a child, it is usual for the friends of the mother to make her presents, in proportion to their means and standing. This is generally in money; and if the child happen to be a son, a good piece of money is given, and if a daughter be the issue, it is the custom to present a bad piece, or one of very trifling value.

One would naturally suppose that the importance which Egyptian customs attach to fruitfulness of mothers, and the preservation of their offspring, would induce them to be exceedingly watchful over their health and comfort, until they were no longer under their control. Such, I believe, among the more wealthy Egyptians is the case; and I have been informed that their children are often spoiled by confinement and effeminate indulgence. But the children which are seen running about the villages of Egypt, often in a state of nudity, present the most neglected appearance imaginable.

Anciently, it is said to have cost very little to raise children in Egypt. "Owing to the warmth of the climate, they required few clothes, and young children were in the habit of going without shoes, and with little or no covering to their bodies; and so trifling was the expense of bringing up a child, that it never need cost a parent more than thirteen shillings, English, until arrived at man's estate."*

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, ii. 53.

“They bring up their children,” says Diodorus,
“with very little cost, and are sparing upon that ac-



PEASANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF EGYPT.

count to admiration : for they provide for them broth,
made of mean and poor stuff, that may easily be had ;
and feed those that are of strength able to bear it,

with the pith of bulrushes, roasted in the embers, and with roots and herbs got in the fens ; sometimes raw, and sometimes boiled, and at other times fried and boiled. Most of their children go barefooted and naked, the climate is so warm and temperate. It costs not the parent, to bring up a child to man's estate, above twenty drachms."*

Such seems to have been the mode of treatment pursued by the ancient Egyptians toward their children. It is much the same with the moderns ; and, judging from appearances, I should say that in the common run, it can hardly cost more to raise a child in Egypt at the present day, than was required for that purpose two thousand years ago.

* Diod. i. 82.





INTERIOR OF AN EGYPTIAN TOMB, AND A VIOLATOR OF THE DEAD.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Politeness and Accomplishments of Dr. O'Squeebey. — Dissection of a Mummy. — Present for the Ladies. — Untoward Accident. — Painful Situation of the Wrinklebottoms. — Sir Danbury Rintaper sensibly touched. — Violators of the Tombs. — Their Condemnation. — Description of the Egyptian Mode of Embalming. — Veneration of the Ancients for the Dead. — Invocation for the Rites of Burial.

NOT long after our arrival in Cairo, we received an invitation from Doctor O'Squeebey to accompany his friends the Rintapers, Builderdashes, Wrinklebottoms, and the Reverend Mr. Dunderblix to the Egyptian Library, to witness the dissection of a mummy.

Doctor O'Squeebey was a thorough-going renegade—that is, so far as related to the costume and religion of his native country. He was perfectly *au fait* with the Arab dress, and their manners and

customs. He mounted the red turboosh and flowing turban; the gay sash, and Turkish shoes; the heavy pistols, and hanging sabre. He sat cross-legged at his meals, ate with his fingers, and smoked the hoo-kah. He put on, as occasion required, so much of the religion of the Prophet as circumstances and his interest seemed to demand: otherwise he did not trouble himself much about serious matters. He was professedly a zealous emancipationist; but a great tyrant in a small way. The only thing he admired in his own country, was its *equitable* system of government. He revered the nobility, loved the Queen, and gloried in the exalted idea of still being able to name himself among "her Majesty's most loyal subjects." He had passed many years in Egypt, and was esteemed the most accomplished phlebotomist and blisterer in the country. His skill in the latter department surpassed all praise, and his reputation in the former made the blood of the Egyptians run cold at the very thought of him. With such a reputation, and sentiments so exalted, he could not fail to make an impression, alike gratifying to his own feelings, and enviable in the eyes of his countrymen. Nor did his bearing toward others indicate any ignorance, on his part, of the important position which he occupied in the elevated circle that he adorned. To his regular profession of practitioner, Spanish-fly dealer, and pill-merchant, he added the collateral occupation, so common to his countrymen in the East, of tomb-robber and relic-vender. He boasted of having ransacked every ancient sepulchre that has yet been dis-

covered throughout the vale of the Nile, from Alexandria to the cataracts. His "scientific researches" among the tombs of the old Egyptians had been attended with abundant success, and he was master of the most choice and extensive collection of mummied cats, dogs, snakes, hawks, and lizards; images, bandages, incense-pots, jars, jugs, and other fragments of the dead, that had been gathered by any former violator of the tombs. The success which had thus far rewarded his labours, had only served to increase his admiration for the antique, and to fire his ambitious thirst after new discoveries and more unlimited plunder in the silent abodes of the dead. He was still pushing his operations with a lively assiduity; and scarcely a day passed, when he did not knock to pieces one or more old mummy, and pulverize the whole mass in his fingers, in search of little images, rings, or other relics, that are frequently discovered about the bodies of the ancient Egyptians. Indeed, the business of tearing off the grave-clothes and breaking up the mysterious remains, had become an occupation so regular with him, that his love for it amounted to a passion. He was perfectly wedded to it. It was a second nature to him. He could no more exist, deprived of this delightful employment, than Mr. Sneezebiter could survive the loss of his snakes. In short, Doctor O'Squeebey and Mr. Sneezebiter were two of the most eminent and distinguished personages in their particular pursuits that were to be found in the country. Mr. Sneezebiter in the snake line, and Doctor O'Squeebey in violating

the tombs, left all competitors in the distance, and they enjoyed a reputation which none, not even the most envious, had the hardihood to dispute.

Being aware of the frequency with which Doctor O'Squeebey broke up the old mummies, Mrs. Wrinklebottom and her amiable daughters had more than hinted a desire to be present to witness the operation. The obliging doctor, with a spirit of gallantry worthy of his own reputation, and characteristic of his countrymen, did not fail to take the earliest opportunity possible to gratify the wishes of the Wrinklebottoms and the other English travellers, and he had the kindness to give us an invitation also to join the brilliant party, and witness the destruction of the mummy.

The hour appointed for this exhibition was twelve o'clock, noon ; and all were requested to be punctual at the time, as the dissection would commence precisely at the above-mentioned hour. We had a few trifling articles to pick up in the bazar that morning, and loitered away so much of our time, that we did not return to the hotel in season to accompany our English friends to the library. When we arrived there, we found them all assembled ; and the operation about to commence. The subject for dissection was evidently a man of more than the ordinary size, and was thrown down upon his back in the centre of the court of the library. Doctor O'Squeebey, in a commanding attitude, stood at the head of the mummy, with an old Arab, leaning upon the handle of a rusty axe, at his side. The Rintapers, Builderdashes, Wrinklebottoms, the Reverend Mr. Dun-

derblix, and several other English travellers had formed a hollow square about the mummy, and stood with their quizzing-glasses raised, and so intent upon the interesting subject before them, that our arrival did not interrupt their fixed regard, nor disturb in the least the solemnity of their meditations. It was then a few minutes past twelve; and the dissection would have been already commenced, had not a succinct preliminary account of the art of embalming, which the doctor was then delivering to the estimable group, delayed it.

The doctor's remarks were pronounced in a deep, sonorous tone of voice; and, judging from the appearance of his hearers, their effect was interesting and impressive. They were, however, brought to a close as we joined the circle, and the doctor ordered the Arab to commence operations.

The Arab raised his axe, smote off the head of the mummy, cut it in pieces, and knocked out the teeth. "These," said the doctor, taking the teeth in his hand, "are capital for setting;" and then put them in his pocket. The work of demolition was continued. The bandages were removed from the legs and arms; and the feet and hands being laid bare, the nails of each were found to be gilded with great care. The ladies, seeing these, were suddenly seized with a taste for forming collections; and begged some portion of the gilded feet and hands, as mementoes of the occasion. These requests were readily granted by the doctor, who proceeded to deal out the shattered fragments of the dead to the ladies, as cheer-

fully as Italians distribute flowers at a fête or an anniversary of a saint. Mrs. Builderdash and daughter received one of the hands and some of the bandages. The Misses Rintaper were presented with the other hand and a jawbone; while to the Wrinklebottoms were presented both feet and a fragment of some other part—but what it was, the distance between them and myself, and the hurried manner in which they concealed it, rendered it impossible for me to determine. The distribution having taken place, and the acknowledgments of the ladies having been returned to Doctor O'Squeebeey, the further destruction of the mummy was resumed. The Arab now gave a heavy blow upon the breast, and laid open the trunk of the body. Nothing extraordinary, however, was discovered by this development; and, contrary to the general expectation, no images, rings, or valuable ornaments whatever were found, though the doctor was indefatigable in the examination,—crumbling the particles and fragments in his fingers, and shaking the rags and patches, as they were stripped off, with the most scrutinizing search. With the exception of occasional exclamations of surprise, an almost profound silence reigned among the spectators.

Sir Danbury had pronounced it “a demmed extraordinary spectacle, 'pon honour;” and Mr. Wrinklebottom thought the fragments which had been presented to his ladies “were *decidedly* most capital specimens.” Very little else had been uttered by any one; and all eyes and glasses were most intently riv-

eted upon the work of destruction. The old Arab had knocked off the arms and legs, and broken the upper part of the body to pieces; and was endeavouring to shatter the more obdurate and compact part across the hips. He had given this several smart blows, but it still remained inflexible. At last, as if piqued at the slight effect of the blows already inflicted, the old man raised his weapon to a more elevated and determined point, bit his lips, and brought down his axe with all his strength. This last unfortunate attack was a side stroke; and, most sad to relate, it missed the object at which it was aimed, and the axe, flying from the hands of the Arab, struck Mrs. Wrinklebottom a most violent blow on one of her legs! On the occurrence of this accident, the whole party were thrown into a state of painful consternation. Mrs. Wrinklebottom uttered a frightful scream, fell helpless upon the ground, and said "she was a dead woman!" One of the Misses Wrinklebottom swooned, and the other was so overcome with fright as to be nearly insensible. Doctor O'Squeebey was so much incensed at this awkward stroke of the Arab, that he drew his sabre and threatened to cut him down on the spot! Possibly he would have carried his threat into execution, had not the old Arab taken to his heels and run away. Mr. Wrinklebottom was in great trepidation. His ladies and their mummy fragments were all scattered upon the ground, and to all appearance, two of the ladies were in the agonies of death! He seized hold of Mrs. Wrinklebottom, and endeavoured to raise her in

his arms. The Builderdashes, at the same moment rushed forward and offered their assistance ; but it seemed to be of little use. The Reverend Mr. Dunderblix, in making commendable efforts to lend a helping hand, unfortunately came down with an iron-shod boot and the whole weight of his body upon the lame foot of Sir Danbury Rintaper ! Sir Danbury let his glass drop from his eye, and danced about the court with painful agility. He swore "it was the most extraordinary spectacle that he had ever seen. Dem me," said he, "I believe we are all to be martyred on the spot, 'pon honour !" The uproar, fright, and confusion that prevailed among us for a few moments were very great. However, we at length mustered sufficient presence of mind to pick up the ladies who had fallen, and convey them into the library. Mr. Wrinklebottom caught up a pitcher of cold water that stood upon the table, and dashed the whole of it into the face of the Miss Wrinklebottom who had fainted, and she revived. Some slight restoratives, which Doctor O'Squeebey happened to have about him, being administered to Mrs. Wrinklebottom, she came to herself sufficiently to permit a partial examination of her wound. Her leg was found to have been struck a violent blow by the head of the axe, a little above the knee. The contusion was very severe. The skin had already become much discoloured, and the part began to swell. It seemed to be the opinion of Doctor O'Squeebey, at first, that the bone was fractured. She was in great agony ; and a litter being brought, she was carried to the hotel for a more thorough examination.

Among the greatest curiosities of Egypt, a country where almost every object is peculiar to a degree which often strikes the traveller with surprise, the embalmed bodies of the ancient inhabitants, and their extraordinary preservation for a period of more than thirty centuries, through all the changes and convulsions of nature, and the ruthless revolutions of man, may perhaps be considered the most remarkable.

The gilding and colours upon the coffins are still fresh, and the wood of which they were constructed exhibits no indication of decay. Raise the lid!— There is the body of the silent inmate, preserved in perfect form. The bandages, though browned with age, are yet entire; and the mysterious writing upon the historical roll of papyrus resting upon the breast, is still legible. The head, the hair, the teeth, the arms, the legs, the hands, the feet, the skin, the bones, the sinews are all preserved, and the whole mortal fabric is there, laid in its narrow house, wrapped in the habiliments of the grave, with all the care and neatness that friendship could dictate, or art achieve. These sad but astonishing remains of a civilized and enlightened people, having for a period of more than three thousand years been permitted the sanctity and repose of death's long, cold sleep, are now rudely torn from their silent tombs, where they were laid by the hands of piety and affection! their coffin-shrouds sacrilegiously stripped away; their trifling trinkets filched by the spoiler; and their naked bodies crumbled and scattered to the winds by Christian hands!

How strangely does this wanton and sacrilegious feeling of those who are ambitious to be numbered among the inhabitants of Christian nations, contrast with the high and noble feelings of respect for the dead evinced by the ancients !

Who can wander through the extensive halls of the British Museum, and there witness the cart-loads of dead bodies, coffins, and grave-clothes filched from the tombs of Egypt by the English tomb-violators, untouched by the just sentiments of their countryman, who, in reference to such outrages upon the grave, has said :—

“ What guilt
Can equal violations of the dead ?
The dead, how sacred !— sacred is the dust
Of this heaven-laboured form !”*

The scorn and indignation with which Pausanias received the advice of his noble friend of Ægina, Lampon, who proposed to the Spartan conqueror at the battle of Plataea to offer the same indignities to the body of Mardonius which Mardonius and Xerxes inflicted upon the remains of his uncle Leonidas, who was slain at Thermopylæ, strikingly indicates the abhorrence with which every violation of the dead, not of their friends only, but even of those of their enemies, was looked upon by the ancient Greeks.

“ Friend of Ægina,” replied Pausanias, “ I thank you for your good intentions, and commend your foresight ; but what you say, violates every principle of equity. After elevating me, my country, and this recent victory to the summit of fame, you again de-

* Dr. Young's Complaint, Night iii. 190.

press us to infamy, in recommending me to inflict vengeance on the dead. You say, indeed, that by such an action I shall exalt my character ; but I think it more consistent with the conduct of barbarians than of Greeks, as it is one of those things for which we reproach them." And he said, in conclusion — "I would advise you in future, having these sentiments, to avoid my presence ; and I would have you think it a favour, that I do not punish you."*

The same sentiment has often been expressed by ancient and modern authors. Homer says, —

"T' insult the dead is cruel and unjust."

The Egyptian art of embalming is supposed to have been lost. Some accounts of the process, however, given by ancient authors who travelled in Egypt and became acquainted with their manners and customs, when this art was successfully practised, are still extant ; and it is not a little curious and interesting to examine them.

Herodotus† informs us that the Egyptians had three modes of embalming. The first and most expensive was only adopted in embalming the bodies of distinguished personages and those of ample fortunes. In cases of this kind, the brain was extracted through the nostrils by an infusion of a certain kind of drug, and by means of crooked iron instruments made for that purpose. The intestines were taken out through an incision made in the side, and thoroughly cleansed, washed with palm wine, and then sprinkled with

* Herod. ix. 79.

† Ibid. ii. 85-87.

powdered aromatics. The body was afterward filled with the powder of pure myrrh, cassia, and other perfumes. Being then sewed up, it was covered with nitre, and lay in that state during the space of seventy days. It was then washed and closely wrapped in bandages of cotton saturated with a liquid gum, used by the Egyptians as glue. In this condition it was returned to the relatives or friends of the deceased, who enclosed it in a wooden case having the resemblance of the human figure, and placed it against the wall in some apartment of the house appropriated to that use, or it was immediately deposited in the family tomb. This was the most costly style of embalming practised among the Egyptians.

Another mode, which was much less expensive, though attended with equal success, was adopted in embalming the bodies of those in more moderate and less pretending circumstances. In cases of this kind, no incision was made in the body, nor were the intestines drawn out, as in the above-mentioned instance. An unguent, made from the cedar, was injected into the body, and proper means being used to prevent the escape of the injected oil, it was then covered with nitre for the space of seventy days. At the expiration of this period, the liquor introduced into the body by injection was withdrawn, and the bowels and intestines came away with it. The nitre having eaten away the flesh, nothing remained but the skin and bones. In this state the body was returned to the relations, and no further care or expense was bestowed upon it by the embalmers.

The poor were embalmed in a manner far less costly even than this. A particular kind of ablution having been passed through the body, it was laid in nitre the usual time of seventy days; after which it was taken out and cleansed, and then returned to the hands whence it had been received.

The account given by Diodorus,* though slightly varying in some particulars from the description of Herodotus, is nevertheless strongly confirmatory of what is said by the latter concerning the Egyptian mode of embalming, and is even more minute. He informs us that forty, instead of seventy days, were required for the process of embalming; and he is borne out in this assertion by the following Scriptural account given of the embalming and burial of Jacob: "And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father: and the physicians embalmed Israel. And *forty* days were fulfilled for him (for so are fulfilled the days of those which are embalmed), and the Egyptians mourned for him *threescore and ten* days."†

The bodies of the dead were considered so sacred by the ancient Egyptians, that the least injury inflicted upon them, even by the embalmers, was sure to bring down the indignation of the people. The incision made in the side for the extraction of the intestines, required in the most costly mode of embalming, was made with "an Ethiopian stone;"‡ and the person whose duty it was to inflict this necessary wound was supposed to have offered an indignity,

* Dioid. i. 90.

† Gen. i. 2, 3.

‡ Dioid. i. 91.

and to have caused an injury to the body of the deceased; and immediately upon cutting so much of the flesh as was prescribed by law, he ran away, might and main, and all persons that were present pursued him with execrations, and pelted him with stones, as if he were guilty of some horrid offence; for they looked upon him as a hateful person, as also upon all who offered violence to a dead body, or did it any injury whatever. "As soon as they come to the wounded body," says Diodorus, "one of the embalmers thrusts up his hand through the wound, into the dead, and draws out all the intestines, but the reins and the heart. Another cleanses all the bowels, and washes them in Phœnician wine, mixed with divers aromatic spices. Having at last washed the body, they first anoint it all over with the oil of cedar and other precious ointments for the space of forty days together; that done, they rub it well with myrrh, cinnamon, and such like things, not only apt and effectual for long preservation, but for the sweet scenting of the body also, and so deliver it to the kindred of the dead, with every member so whole and entire, that no part of the body seems to be altered, till it come to the very hair of the eyelids and the eyebrows, insomuch that the beauty and shape of the face seems just as it was before. By which means, many of the Egyptians laying up the bodies of their ancestors in stately monuments, perfectly see the true visage and countenance of those that were buried many ages before they themselves were born."*

* Diod. i. 91.

Another singular custom which prevailed among the Egyptians was, as Herodotus says — “At the entertainments of the rich, just as the company was about to rise from the repast, a small coffin was carried round, containing a perfect representation of a dead body : it was in size sometimes of one, but never of more than two cubits, and as it was shown to the guests in rotation, the bearer exclaimed, ‘Cast your eyes on this figure : after death, you yourself will resemble it ; drink then and be happy.’ Such were the customs they observed at their entertainments.”*

The veneration and respect for their departed kindred, imposed by the natural ties of blood, and the powerful promptings of their religion, doubtless received no trifling stimulus among the Egyptians in thus honouring their dead, from the fact of its being lawful among them to pledge† the mummied body of a parent or friend to a creditor for debts or loans of money. In case of pledging the dead bodies of their friends, the creditor took possession of the family tomb, and held it until the liquidation of his claim ; and so disreputable was it considered among them not to redeem this sacred deposite, that those who were guilty of it could not be buried themselves in the family tomb, or any other vault, nor could they bury any one of their descendants.‡ Such as were in debt, were denied the right of burial ; and their dead bodies might be attached and held by their creditors until their kindred came forward and discharged the claims against them. If I am not very much mis-

* Herod. ii. 78.

† Diod. i. 92.

‡ Herod. ii. 136.

taken, a similar law of Great Britain exists in full force at the present day.

Though there may be little in the cold, damp precincts of the tomb to cheer the melancholy feelings of a dying mortal ; yet in every age, mankind have evinced a strong aversion to their lifeless remains being left unburied, a prey to accident, and to the rapacious beasts of the field and birds of the air.

Upon the minds of the superstitious Egyptians this idea must have acted with immense power. Their religion, to which they were politically wedded and bigotedly devoted, taught them that their lives could be of little use further than to build their tombs and prepare for the long repose of death. And the harrowing thought, if seriously entertained, of being deprived of the right of burial after death ; the *éclat*, pomp, and ceremonies usually attendant upon their funerals, could hardly fail to haunt the dying Egyptian, and fill his soul with gloom and despair. This impression, it is supposed, could have acted with scarcely less weight in the early ages of the world upon the inhabitants of contemporaneous nations.

Their sentiments upon this point are probably no more beautifully than faithfully expressed by Homer, in the following invocation of the ghost of Patroclus to Achilles, for the last sad offices of his surviving friend :

“Thou sleep’st, Achilles ! while Patroclus, erst
Thy most beloved, in death forgotten lies.
I would pass the gates of Hades ; for the shadows of the dead
Now drive me from their fellowship afar,
And, the wide river interposed, I roam
The yawning gulfs of Tartarus alone.

And grant, O grant, that, joining hands, we take
 One mutual, long farewell! for, favoured once
 With my *last rites*, I visit earth no more.

* * * * Refuse not to perform

My last injunction. Bury not my bones
 From thine apart, but in one social tomb.

* * * * * * * *

So, in one vase, the golden one, by gift
 From Thetis thine, our mingled bones may rest."

And Ulysses, of his visit to the infernal regions,
 says:

"There, wandering through the gloom, I first surveyed,
 New to the realms of death, Elpenor's shade;
 His cold remains, all naked to the sky,
 On distant shores, unwept, unburied lie."

And the spectre, asking Ulysses' aid in obtaining
 the rites of the tomb,—

"But lend me aid, I now conjure thee lend,
 By the soft tie and sacred name of friend;
 By thy fond consort, by thy father's cares,
 By loved Telemachus's blooming years.

* * * * * * *

The tribute of a tear is all I crave,
 And the possession of a peaceful grave."



MEMLOOKS.

CHAPTER XXX.

Jews in the Metropolis of Egypt. — Natural Hatred of Jews and Moslems. — Mode of executing Jews. — Slave-market of Cairo. — Tombs of the Memlooks. — Memlook Kings. — Their Origin, Power, and Destruction. — Circassian Slaves. — Parents sell their own Children.

AFTER the unhappy termination of the mummy scene, having a few leisure hours to dispose of, we resolved to turn them to some account in further exploring the curiosities of Cairo. On our way to the slave-market, we passed through the section of the town inhabited by the Jews. We did not require to be informed when we had reached it; for the same peculiar cast of visage which identifies the poor He-

brew in all other parts of the world, met us here in the little dark, stived-up passage-ways of the Jews' quarter in Cairo. As is usual in most of the large cities of Europe, the Jews in the metropolis of Egypt huddle together, and live in a close, filthy, and vile part of the town. Many of the lanes (they cannot be called streets) in the Jews' quarter are so narrow that two persons can scarcely pass abreast. There are about three thousand Hebrews in Cairo, and between five and six thousand altogether in Egypt. Those we saw in Cairo, with few exceptions, appeared miserable in the extreme. They looked more wretched than the Arabs. They had sore eyes, swollen, cadaverous faces, long beards, tattered garments—and a more degraded race of beings could not be found in any part of the world.

Hated and contemned by the Moslems, they are compelled to pay tribute to the Turks; and they tamely submit to insult and indignity from the meanest Arabs. The animosity of the Moslems toward the Jews is no less proverbial than that of the Jews toward the Moslems. So abominable are the Jews in the eyes of the Turks, that when any of them are condemned to suffer death, they are invariably hanged—lest, should they be beheaded, according to the usual mode of executing criminals in the East, *the sword should be defiled by the blood of a Jew!* The name of Jew, among the Egyptians, is synonymous with the most opprobrious epithets. The mule-drivers, when nettled by the obstinacy of their headstrong animals, after exhausting their strength in

whipping them, and their imaginations in endeavouring to find words for an adequate expression of their displeasure, find a consoling revenge by applying to their mules and jackasses the hateful name of Jew !

The Jews have several synagogues in their quarter of the town, and are very strict in their devotional services. They are organized and governed conformably to the law of Moses ; and submissively range themselves under their rabbis and high priests, who are tyrannical and oppressive in their administration.

A Jew, one morning while it was yet dark, passing the coffee-shop of a Moslem with whom he was acquainted, and seeing a person there whom he mistook for the master, said, " Good morning, Sheik Mohammed ;" but the only response to this civil salutation was an angry rebuke from one of his brethren for addressing a *Jew* by a name so despicable. The offender was forthwith dragged before the high priest, who caused him to be severely bastinadoed for the crime, notwithstanding the protestations of the delinquent that he committed this offence unintentionally.*

This anecdote will serve to illustrate the hatred which the Jews entertain toward the Moslems, as well as to exhibit the tyranny and wanton cruelty of their high priests.

Some of the Jews are wealthy ; but, fearful of exciting the envious and marauding disposition of the Moslems, they make little display of their riches, except at home. When going into the street, they are careful to change their dress, and to give themselves

* Lane's Modern Egyptians, ii. 345.

as shabby and mean an appearance as possible. The Jews of Cairo, as in all other places, have not only a peculiarity in appearance, but their occupations are also peculiar, or such as Jews, wherever situated, are found to engage in. Money-changers, jewellers, gold and silver smiths, pawnbrokers, and old clothes-venders are found in any quantity among the Jews of Egypt. The same spirit of avarice, and the same disposition to overreach in commercial transactions, which distinguish the lower classes of Jews in other countries, where they are less oppressed, act with much stronger force upon the Jews in Cairo; and often bring them into perilous contact with the government, where, frequently, their lives only can atone for indulging their inordinate desires after wealth. A Jew money-changer once lost his life in Cairo for *five cents*! The Pacha having issued a decree prohibiting the circulation of a certain Turkish coin, called '*adleeyehs*, for more than *fifteen* piasters; and a Jew who had demanded and taken *sixteen* for the same piece of money, being convicted of the offence, was hung forthwith.*

The Jews have found Egypt, ever since the death of Joseph, a country of oppression and tyranny toward the people of their nation; and, with the exception of some brief periods, particularly under the early reign of the Macedonian dynasty, their condition in that country has been little better than was that of their ancestors in the days of Moses. They have existed there only in a state of bondage, degra-

* Lane's Modern Egyptians, ii. 346, 347.

dition, and fear. They have always been tributary to government, and often in a state of literal slavery. Ptolemy Philadelphus, in his reign, ransomed a hundred and twenty thousand Jews who were then slaves in Egypt. When Alexandria fell into the hands of the Saracens, there were forty thousand tributary Jews in that city alone. Their numbers in Egypt have greatly dwindled with the decaying power and declining civilization of that country; while their physical and moral condition cannot be said to have improved. They are generally the first to suffer in case of any sudden outbreak among the people: are frequently plundered, and almost daily insulted. They live in a state of perpetual fear, religiously contemning the Christians, bitterly hating the Moslems, and receive little or no sympathy from any quarter. When the plague breaks out in Egypt, its ravages among the Jews are most appalling. Death sweeps down their ranks, threatening total annihilation to their race in the land. What stronger evidence can be adduced of the truth of Holy Writ, than the present condition of the poor Israelites!

We entered the court of a dilapidated old building, with a rickety balcony run round the second story, having little dark cells opening upon the court on all sides. This was the slave-market. Here we saw man in a state of ignorance, degradation, and misery, but little removed from the mere animal or brute creation. It would be impossible to exhibit more deplorable specimens of our species than we saw in that sink of filth, disease, and death. There were

slaves (mostly from Nubia, Abyssinia, and Dongola) in all the stalls, or in groups, sitting upon the ground or on the balcony. Some were handsome figures, and compactly built; though by far the greater number were ugly, deformed, and diseased. Their teeth, without exception, were white and beautiful. Some were comely, had well-formed faces, and large, dark, expressive eyes. They had scarcely any clothes on them, and what they had were swarming with vermin.

The slave-dealers, watching over the stale articles of their traffic, evidently anxious to be relieved from the responsibility of their charge, were importunate to strike a bargain; and thought that we, like our noble friend Lord Scatterberry, were in pursuit of beauty and youth. They spared no pains in exhibiting their fairest specimens; and turned them round and round before us, that we might see on all sides of them, and then ordered them to walk up and down the court. The poor slaves, looking forward to a life of servitude and toil as a happy release from a den of such misery, tried to show themselves off to the best advantage. But when we passed along without making an offer, the slaves assumed a disconsolate, gloomy air, and the dealers harshly upbraided them for not conducting themselves toward us in a more winning manner. Many sat or lay upon the ground, apparently unconscious of what was passing. The ravages of disease were upon them; and death, to all appearance, would be but too happy an exchange for their miserable existence in a state of so much want and wretchedness. Their sunken eyes rolled with a

ghastly and vacant gaze ; their emaciated bodies and withered limbs lay motionless, or were drawn into a collapsed and inanimate heap, revolting to the sight, and touching to the feelings of humanity. We soon satisfied our curiosity in the slave-market ; and, taking a turn through the Turkish bazar, went out at the " Gate of Victory," to view the tombs of the Memlooks.

These extraordinary monuments of an extinct dynasty of Egyptian rulers, stand on the east side of the town ; and, although within full view of the city, they rest amid all the gloom and desolation of the wilderness. Were they in the centre of Arabia, they could not be more completely in the desert. They are of the Saracenic order of architecture, and have an imposing and grand effect. To each is attached a mosque, school, and dwelling. But they are all in a state of rapid decay. Like all things else in Turkish hands, the tombs of the Memlooks will crumble into dust, without having the least effort made to arrest their gradual fall.

The Memlook kings raised themselves from bondmen to the throne, and governed Egypt for the space of two hundred and sixty-seven years, with a rigour equalled only by the barbarous atrocities of their Turkish conquerors. Becoming at last tributary and degraded vassals of the Sultan of Turkey, the remnant who were left still held the semblance of power which was intrusted to them by the conqueror, to restrain the ambitious designs of their nominal master, the Pacha of Egypt. Though policy dictated a

show of obedience to the decrees of the Porte, treachery, intrigue, poison, strangulation, and the sword again virtually raised the Memlooks to absolute power over the country.

When Napoleon invaded Egypt, whatever may have been his ulterior designs, he declared war against the Memlooks only; who, at that time, composed the military strength of the country. The twenty-four beys, who at that period governed Egypt, were selected from the ranks of the Memlooks; and they rendered the power of the Pacha, who received his appointment from the Porte, a complete nullity. He was often made the pitiful tool to carry into effect their ambitious designs, and to consummate their atrocious enormities. Napoleon chastised and drove them from the country. But, upon the general restoration instituted by the "Holy Alliance" subsequently to the downfall of Bonaparte, a lurking, lingering remnant of the Memlooks again made their appearance in Egypt, and essayed to exercise their former sway and control over the Pacha. But a fearful change had come over them; and a man of stern decision and undoubted bravery held the destiny of the country. MEHEMET ALI, through the various arts and intrigues common to the East for the acquisition of power, had raised himself to the viceroyalty of Egypt. The Memlooks had tried in vain to annihilate him and his power; and the Sultan, in conjunction with them, had made frequent efforts to defeat his ambitious purposes. But, with that consummate address, bribery, and intrigue which he brought effectually to

bear upon the imperial court, he successfully baffled the cunning designs of the Porte ; while he held the Memlooks at defiance by the inflexible bravery and attachment of his Albanian soldiers.

After various ineffectual struggles with the viceroy, in all of which the Memlooks suffered severely, they proposed, upon the invasion of Egypt by the English in 1807, to form a friendly alliance with the Pacha for the purpose of inflicting a merited chastisement upon their common enemy. A proposition at once so conciliatory and so favourable at that interesting moment, could not fail to be listened to by the viceroy, and was embraced by him with alacrity.

The united forces of Mehemet Ali and the Memlooks met the English invaders (who had already landed in Egypt, possessed themselves of Alexandria, and committed their usual atrocities upon the defenceless citizens), cut them to pieces, and hung their devoted heads over the "Gate of Victory," as an impressive trophy, upon the walls of the metropolis. The country being no longer a prey to the rapacity of foreign invaders, now left the seeds of jealousy, discord, intrigue, and assassination, which deeply rankled in the bosom of the rival powers, ample opportunity to germinate and shoot into fearful activity.

The authority of Mehemet Ali was still acknowledged and obeyed by the Memlooks, and the semblance of friendship subsisted between them and the viceroy. But each, actuated by the base motives prompted by mutual and bitter hatred, only sought a favourable opportunity for wreaking vengeance up-

on the other, and to be rid for ever of a hated and detested foe. Fortunately for the viceroy, and perhaps for the cause of humanity, a plausible pretext was afforded for calling the Memlooks together; and for their voluntarily placing themselves in the power of the Pacha, without exciting on their part the least suspicion of the intended execution of his murderous designs, until it was too late for them to effect an escape from impending destruction. A youthful son of Mehemet Ali had been presented by the Grand Seignior with the dignity and order of a pacha. His father had appointed him general of the army which was soon to march, in conformity to the commands of the Porte, to commence a hostile attack upon the Wahabees in Arabia. The 1st day of March, 1811, was appointed for the investiture of the young general; and a splendid fête was to be given in honour of the event at the citadel where the ceremony was to take place. The Memlooks were invited to join in the festivities. They accordingly appeared at the time appointed, with Châhin Bey at their head, attired in their richest and most splendid uniforms. They presented themselves at the audience-chamber, and congratulated the viceroy, by whom they were cordially received and treated with much affability. They were presented with coffee and sherbet, and Mehemet Ali, with great openness of heart and apparent sincerity, addressed himself to each, with many flattering expressions of friendship and esteem—a course of conduct calculated to lull all lurking suspicions in the breasts of the Memlooks, if any at that time had disturbed them.

The ceremonies at the citadel being completed, the procession was formed and ordered to move into the town. The troops of the viceroy, as usual, preceded the Memlooks. When they were all compactly wedged into the narrow passage cut through the solid rock, with high and insurmountable barriers on each side—the troops of the viceroy having passed out, the portals at both ends of the deadly pass were immediately closed! Soldiers had been ordered to the heights overlooking the Memlooks, thus caught in a trap; and they now poured a destructive fire upon their victims, until they were slaughtered almost to a man! The town was subsequently ransacked and plundered by the soldiers for two whole days, under the pretence of searching for the Memlooks. Some were found in the harem of the viceroy and the house of his son, having taken shelter there in the hope that their lives might be spared; but they were all dragged from their hiding-places, and immediately decapitated. The body of their leader was treated with every possible indignity. A rope was passed round the neck, and his lifeless carcass dragged through the most public streets of Cairo. Five hundred houses are said to have been sacked in the popular fury, before the brutal excesses of the soldiery could be arrested. Nearly five hundred of the gallant enemies of the viceroy lay dead at his feet; and a much more numerous host of their attendants, who usually accompanied them as servants, were mingled with the lifeless bodies of their masters. Not less than eleven or twelve hundred lives were sacrificed on the

spot. Orders were given to pursue the devoted Memlooks who yet survived, to the utmost borders of the country. One man alone, of all their number, made his escape. He, being detained on business, did not leave the palace in time to join his companions before they had entered the fatal pass. The gates were closed as he mounted his horse ; and he was left, shut in on all sides, and completely in the hands of his enemies, who thirsted for his blood. His suspicions were at once aroused, and the brisk firing of musketry which immediately ensued along the whole line of the passage from the summit of the rocks, confirmed the worst construction that he had put upon the extraordinary circumstances of the case. He was fully aware that the fatal moment had arrived, and that there was not an instant to be lost. There was no way of escape, however, except down a perpendicular precipice forty feet in height ! Already he was a doomed man, and death hung suspended over him as by a hair. He hesitated not ; but spurred his noble Arabian to the brink, and leaped the fearful height ! His horse was killed dead on the spot, and he himself escaped the dangers of the fall and the showers of the enemy's fire, which was now poured after him, as by a miracle. He succeeded in mounting another horse, rushed through the guards, and fled alone into the desert. He was afterward joined by a small suite, and settled in Palestine.

Thus awfully perished the remnant of a barbarous race of tyrants, who, for a period of more than five hundred and fifty years, had rendered a portion of

the fairest part of the world the theatre of anarchy, bloodshed, demoralization, barbarism, and oppression. The Memlooks were introduced into Egypt early in the thirteenth century. Their name imports *military slaves*; and such in fact they were originally, being Circassians, Mingrelians, and Abazans, who, as the spoils of war among the barbarians of the East, had been crowded into the slave-markets of Asia, and were bought by the rulers of Egypt and formed into military corps.

The Circassian slaves of both sexes have ever been held in the highest estimation of any by the Turks. "The Abazans stand next in favour with them; the Mingrelians next; after them the Georgians, then the Russians and Poles, next the Hungarians and Germans, then the Negroes; and, last of all, the Spaniards, Maltese, and Franks, whom they despise as drunkards, debauchees, idle and mutinous."*

It is a fact worthy of remark, that of the many thousands of slaves of both sexes brought from the borders of the Caspian Sea and the region of the Caucasus mountains, and settled in Egypt in marriage with natives of their own country, not a soul has been able to perpetuate its kind.† Every family, after the first generation, has become extinct. The same is also true of the Turks, who can only secure the continuance of their families by marrying the Egyptians. A fresh supply of slaves from the East has usually found a ready market in Egypt, from the time they were first introduced there to the present.

* Volney's *Egypt and Syria*, i. 72, note.

† *Ibid.* i. 66.

day. The Circassian and Georgian female slaves are most highly valued by Turkish grandees; and Mr. Lane informs us that at Cairo, "they are often their only female companions, and sometimes their wives; and being generally preferred by them before the free ladies of Egypt, the slaves hold a higher rank than the latter in common opinion. They are richly dressed, presented with valuable ornaments, indulged frequently with almost every luxury that can be procured; and, when it is not their lot to wait upon others, may in some cases be happy; as latterly has been proved, since the termination of the war in Greece, by many females of that country, captives in Egyptian harems, refusing their offered liberty, which all of those cannot be supposed to have done from ignorance of the state of their parents and other relations, or the fear of exposing themselves to poverty."* It is no strange thing to see poor parents in Egypt publicly offering their own children for sale; though it very rarely occurs, except in cases of extreme distress and destitution.

* Lane's *Modern Egyptians*, i. 256.

CHAPTER XXXI

Visit from Monsieur le "Baron Pompolino." — Cemetery of Cairo. — Tomb of Mehemet Ali. — Ancient Sepulchres. — Excursion to the Petrified Forest. — Brilliant Cavalcade. — Disconcerted Understanding.

THE *complaisance de Monsieur le "Baron Pompolino,"* in honouring us with a morning call, delayed somewhat our departure on an excursion to the great cemetery of Cairo and the petrified forest in the Syrian desert. *Monsieur le Baron* is literally an enormous man — in bulk, "a prodigiously clever fellow."

Having disposed of the consular dignitary, we rode outside the walls of the city, and entered the fields of the dead. We were at once in a wilderness of graves! This, the largest cemetery in the Pacha's dominions, extends from the walls of the metropolis to the base of the mountains of Mukattam. Thickly dotted with tombs and swelling graves, it amply testified to the imperious sway of Death, even in the sunny vale of Egypt.

Here, with dishevelled hair and rueful visage, a sheet-enveloped group of women were wailing over a new-formed tomb. There a shallow grave yawned to receive the uncoffined remains of one "new to the

realms of death." On the other hand, a funeral group had just deposited a corpse, sprinkled it with dust, and were then performing the last sad rites of humanity. In the distance, towered the family tomb of Mehemet Ali. Desolation and the gloom of death were around us. No leaf fluttered in the breeze, no flower blossomed there ; no tree waved its shade, and no green herbage cheered the gloom of those eternal sands.

The sepulchre of Mehemet Ali is an imposing structure ; as effective, when seen at a distance, as any modern edifice in Egypt. It is built of stone, and crowned with two lofty domes. The floor is covered with Persian carpets. The numerous monumental erections over the Pacha's favourite wives, his sons, and the other distinguished personages there interred, are spread with Cashmere shawls. Lamps are suspended from the ceilings, and the recesses are fitted up with divans. The Pacha, mindful that he, too, like other men, is mortal ; and that when his destiny upon earth shall have been accomplished, he must lay down the sceptre and mingle with the dust, has reserved a place for himself in this tomb.

In their plenitude and greatness, the Egyptian kings took particular thought about their tombs. Immense sacrifices of life, toil, and treasure, were made in their wonderful achievement. Mountains of living rock were penetrated to the centre ; and the sound of the artist's implements ceased not till palaces of surpassing beauty, embellished with sculpture and painting, existed in their flinty bosoms. The

vast pyramids, which pierce the sky, and defy the obliterating effects of time, were raised to gratify the vanity of Egyptian despots and hold their faded dust! This ambition to be pompously housed after death, has pervaded the minds of Egyptian rulers throughout every period of her known history. It exists still; and, in striking contrast with the degradation of her fallen condition, it may conspicuously be seen in the lofty mausoleum of the reigning prince of Egypt.

Leaving the tomb of the Pacha, we passed those of the Memlooks, and rode to the "Petrified Forest." The surface of the desert presented a wavy aspect of gentle vales and swelling ridges. It was covered with pebbles, jasper, and agate. Occasionally, we saw pieces of petrified wood, long before we reached the extended mound upon which the main bulk of it was strewed. Ascending the rocky acclivity, we stood amid the fallen fragments of a forest that once waved a grateful shade over that desolate region. The surface of the desert is, to a great extent, thickly strewed with the petrified trunks and shattered limbs of full-grown trees. Some are well defined throughout,—with every appearance of having remained in their present posture, and with little or no interruption, from the time they were first thrown down to this day. I measured the trunk of one of the most perfect specimens to the extent of eighty feet. The main stem and its branches extended much further. But above this point, their flinty ruins lay in a less perfect state. Others of large dimensions might have

been measured with equal facility; and innumerable specimens of petrified wood, of every variety, were scattered in all directions.

I have seen these petrifications recorded by travelers; but I had not the least conception of their extent or interest, until I visited the spot. The fairest and most numerous specimens lay upon rather elevated ground, while in the valleys that run toward the Nile, there were very few pieces, and those had the appearance of being tumbled down from the elevated swells on either side.

It may be a question not unworthy the consideration of the naturalist to investigate the cause of this immense mass of petrification, elevated upon a surface so high as to preclude the possibility of its being covered with water, unless the whole desert between Cairo and Suez be inundated. This, however, is not more remarkable than the petrified sea-shells which are found upon the high mountains of Upper Egypt. I have now in my possession perfect specimens of these, which I picked up in our rambles about the mountains of Thebes.

As we were descending the declivity, we saw, in the distance, a long procession of camels, horses, and donkeys, mounted by suspicious-looking individuals, armed with guns, pistols, sabres, swords, daggers, and other warlike implements. Their long beards, red caps, and oriental air filled our minds with some doubts of their honesty. At first, we thought they were some marauders, seeking in the solitude of those cheerless wastes for plunder and spoils. We

had neither guns nor any other weapons of defence ; and were ruminating upon our defenceless situation, when, greatly to our relief, we discovered that the party coming down upon us with such a warlike aspect, comprised none other than our estimable English friends. When we saw their ponderous eye-glasses swinging upon their breasts and glistening in the rays of the sun, all our fears were suppressed. Had the broad colours of her Majesty been let loose to the wind, streaming from the tallest camel, we could not have been more certain of the origin of this outlandish, bandit-looking cavalcade, than we were when we saw the dazzling display of eye-glasses.

The Builderdashes, Rintapers, Doctor O'Squeebey, and several others were of the party. They were unable to divine who we were, until, quizzing-glass to eye, they had approached the spot where we stood. Then, with one accord, letting fall their glasses, the gentlemen roared out in the accent and modulation of voice peculiar to the "sea-girt isle" — "How are ye ? how are ye ? What the devil brought you here ? Is there any thing *extraordinary* among these demmed old sand-hills ?"

This flattering salutation having been responded to, the party dismounted, and related to us the disasters of the day. The ladies declared they had been "knocked up before ten o'clock in the morning !" But notwithstanding these vigorous efforts to "take time by the forelock," it was half past eleven o'clock before the Arabs were ready to depart. In passing

out at the gate of the city, a baggage-camel crushed against the wall, tore the goat-skins, and let the water out upon the ground. This mischief was scarcely repaired, when Mrs. Builderdash's donkey plunged off at full speed among the tombs, endangering his own neck, frightening Mrs. B., and carrying disorder through the whole party. Dr. O'Squeebey, mounted upon a fleet horse, pursued the absconding quadruped, and beat him with a club until he forced him to resume his place in the procession. They now moved forward; but had proceeded only a short distance, when the saddle of one of the Misses Rimtaper broke down, and precipitated the *young* lady into the sand! Luckily she received no material injury; and the saddle being replaced and well secured with a fresh supply of ropes, order was again restored, and the procession was once more put in motion. It was soon discovered that the servants had forgotten the beer, bread, and charcoal. A small detachment being sent off to town for these important supplies, the remainder proceeded on, and came through the rest of the distance without further accident. But these untoward circumstances had carried them deep into the afternoon before they arrived upon the field of their inspection.

Sir Danbury had nearly recovered from the gout, and was in excellent spirits. He advanced a few paces in front of his companions, and, through the medium of his glass, surveyed the petrified fragments that were thickly strewed over the land; then, wheeling round, and holding his glass half suspended to his eye, he

said: "This is a demmed extraordinary *spectarkle*, 'pon honour!" Advancing toward Colonel Builderdash, and taking him confidentially by the arm, he observed, "It would be a demmed clever plan to purchase the petrified forest and send it out to England, 'pon honour."

Sir Danbury thought an honest penny might be made by turning it over to the British Museum, and wished to induce Colonel Builderdash to join him in the enterprise. The colonel, however, expressed doubts, under the diminished revenue of the government, and the contemplated marriage of her Majesty, whether an appropriation sufficiently large could be obtained from Parliament for that purpose. He was of opinion that, unless it could be worked on to the public at an enormous amount as other oriental collections had been, there was little encouragement to move in such *weighty* matters. Sir Danbury swore that "he was of the same opinion, 'pon honour."

Doctor O'Squeebey, in full Turkish costume, with pistols in his sash, stood poised upon one leg, with his left hand upon the hilt of his sabre, and his right on his heart, delivering a semi-confidential lecture to the pretty Miss Builderdash on the subject of fossilization and conchylaceous substances. Connected with his scientific exordium, the learned doctor made some touching remarks about the affections. He was demonstrating to the young lady, by argument, elegant gesticulation, and pathetic expression of face, the astonishing capabilities of the human heart. The sudden appearance of Mrs. Builderdash, who at that

interesting moment joined her amiable daughter, produced a slight pause in the affecting discourse of the doctor, and finally turned it again upon shells and fossil remains.

The Misses Rintaper were "delighted with the petrified forest, it was so odd." One of them, approaching her brother with an ecstatic exclamation, desired to know if Sir Danbury "had ever witnessed any thing so extraordinary — so very odd?"

Sir Danbury, who, glass to eye, was contemplating a large petrification which he held in his right hand, and which, by some unaccountable accident, at that moment slipped from his grasp and fell upon his gouty foot, bounded in a paroxysm of wrath, and chastely exclaimed, "Dem it, my dear, I shall be murdered — absolutely martyred, in this demmed desert, 'pon honour!"

"Pray what's the matter, dear Dan? you appear to be completely knocked up," affectionately observed Miss Rintaper.

"Matter!" responded the agonized Sir Danbury, "why, dem it, my dear, I shall be sacrificed — completely ruined: my foot is mashed to jelly with this demmed stone!"

"Did the *rock* fall on your toe, dear Dan?" touchingly inquired Miss Rintaper.

"My toe!" rejoined Sir Danbury; "will you hold your demmed tongue, my dear! You'll take my life; would you like to have your foot ground to powder in this demmed desert?"

"'Pon me word, this is very extraordinary, Sir Dan-

bury, very odd!" observed Miss Rimtaper, miffed at the last reply of her affectionate brother.

"'Tis devilish odd; will you hold your demmed tongue, though, my dear, and call Doctor O'Squeebey, Miss Rimtaper?" said Sir Danbury.

"No, indeed I won't, Sir Danbury!" replied Miss Rimtaper, in a more elevated tone of voice.

"Then go to the devil, my dear, and be demmed to you!" was the response of Sir Danbury.

Perceiving that the good *understanding* of Sir Danbury and his affectionate sister was considerably disturbed, and that it was not likely to assume a more genial aspect by our presence, we moderately rode past their tents, which were pitched in the valley.

A large train of Arab attendants were active in the culinary department. A blazing fire was kindled, and the smoke of fat was curling upward like that of burning incense on an idol's altar. The ground was strewed with demijohns, bottles, beds, kettles, pans, plates, water-skins, hams, chickens, and various material in the raw state; and, as we bade adieu to the petrified forest, every thing in this quarter was going swimmingly on.

Loitering slowly toward Cairo, we reached the "Gate of Victory" just as the sun dipped his broad and luminous disc behind the Libyan hills. It was then the depth of winter; but the air was balmy, the breeze gentle, and the climate lovely as an Italian May.

CHAPTER XXXII.

Expedition of Discovery among the Harems. — Mysteries and Miseries of a Turkish Bath. — Propensity of Egyptian Ladies for its Pleasures. — Baths of the Ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans ; and of the Scythians and Finlanders.

OUR English friends having returned from the petrified forest, Mrs. C. was notified that the ladies, including Mrs. Wrinklebottom (who had nearly recovered from her late injuries), had planned a new enterprise ; and she was invited to share with them in its expenses and pleasures.

They proposed to visit the harems of Cairo ; and the arrangements for this adventure were already completed. Accordingly, at an appointed hour, there was a great commotion in the street ; and the party, preceded by four armed janizaries and the interpreter of the English consulate, accompanied by the usual number of out-runners, drew up in front of our abode. With one exception, no accident occurred to mar the opening scene of this expedition.

Mrs. Wrinklebottom, still weak from the effects of her late disaster at the museum, rode a headstrong

creature, which took a notion to run through a low, narrow gate, scarcely large enough to admit his body disencumbered of every thing else. Go he would, and go he did, in spite of the most vigorous efforts of Mrs. W. and the muleteer to prevent him. The consequence was, a clean sweep of every thing on his back ; and Mrs. Wrinklebottom was most uncomfortably plunged into the sand. She was fortunately more agitated than injured ; and, being mounted on a more tractable animal, the procession set off again with no little noise and parade. The Egyptians gathered around, anxious to discover their destination.

As no gentlemen were to be of this party, and the doctor having an engagement with Mr. Lieder, the worthy missionary at Cairo, I was left alone. Though not quite so far gone as poor Burns represented his case to be, when he hesitated "whether to get drunk or to hang himself ;" I had nevertheless recourse to an amusement which was far more exhausting than the former, and, for a time, I was not without my fears of its resulting as fatally as the latter. I took a Turkish bath.

Entering the vestibule of the establishment, I stood in a large circular room, with concave ceiling, lighted by small apertures in the dome. Placing myself in the hands of one of the "knights of the bath," I was conducted into a side room of small dimensions, similar in form and finish to the entrance-hall, though of much higher temperature. The marble floor was spread with mats, and the light was admitted through the roof. Here my clothes were placed in the hands

of an Arab for safe keeping; and being swathed from head to foot in coarse towels, with high wooden clogs on my feet, I launched off, preceded by my conductor, for a more deep investigation into the mysteries of the bath. Descending two or three steps, I entered a large apartment crowned with a dome, and lighted and constructed in a similar manner to the last. It was very warm, and filled with steam.

Several Arabs lay about the room like panting dogs in a kamsin. One man was having his head shaved — another his beard relieved from its vermin.

This process being neither new nor pleasing, I had a strong desire to proceed. But in stepping from this room into the next, I “jumped out of the frying-pan into the fire.” Where I had only scorched, I now burned and blistered. From a moderate simmering, I found myself on the point of boiling over in the steam and hot air of the room. It was even worse than the baths of Nero at *Baiæ*; and, as one of Squire Thornhill’s fashionable ladies chastely expressed herself while dancing at the Vicar of Wakefield’s, I “was all of a muck of sweat.”

Fountains of boiling water were playing in different parts of the room, and rushing down upon the marble floor. I stumbled over one or two half-inanimate Egyptians, who had hauled themselves out of the water, and lay upon the floor more dead than alive. As the steam occasionally broke away, I could perceive, in the apartments that opened still more deeply into the bosom of these “infernal regions,” other dusky sons of the Prophet indulging in all the

delights of the boiling luxury. I had no disposition, however, to penetrate the steaming ocean any further. And when the guide, who had conducted me thus far, handed me over to the real Vulcan of the place, I began to feel alarmed for my safety.

The old salamander, into whose hands I had at last fallen, was a tall, gaunt figure, in a state of perfect nudity. He had a cadaverous, parboiled visage, shaved head, and sepulchral voice. He kept up a constant jabbering in Arabic, which was as intelligible to me as my language was to him. He at once proceeded to unfold the mysteries of his art. Seizing me round the waist with a determined grip, he prostrated me upon the side of a large marble tub, into which the water was pouring at a high temperature. He pulled my legs and arms until every joint cracked like the whip of a French postillion; then clasping my head with both hands, he wrenched it back and forth till my neck-bone uttered a nimble sound. My ears were the next object of his attack. These he pulled and mashed in his fingers till they snapped like parched peas. Then my fingers and toes came in detail under his dislocating inspection. Every joint in them audibly testified to their peril, and the danger they were in of being torn out by the roots. This done, he made a painful attempt upon my back-bone. To prevent this stem of my body from being broken, I resisted the executioner by main strength. Being foiled in his wrenching operations upon my back, he poached the flesh on every part of my body till it was ready to drop from my bones.

Having exhausted his strength in this department of his art, he caught up a coarse, raspy stone, and began to rub the soles of my feet. They were at length on the point of blistering ; he nevertheless continued to rasp away, nor could I prevail upon him to desist, until, vexed with his pertinacity, and stung with pain, I gave him a kick, and tumbled him into a boiling fountain.

I had now, as I supposed, come to an open rupture with him, and was determined to fight my way out once more to the light of day. But the fellow, on picking himself out of the water, smiled so good-naturedly, that I suffered him to approach again, and he continued the process in a modified style. He took a woollen bag, dipped it frequently in boiling water, and rubbed me for some minutes, and then introduced my feet into the tub at my side. I thought it would be impossible for me to endure the intensity of the heat of this water. But he proceeded in a manner so gentle, dipping me in little by little, that he finally succeeded in plunging me all over into the scalding bath. This produced a strange sensation. I soon began to like it ; and remained in so long, that when I was fished out, I could scarcely stand alone. I was now conducted into an adjoining room, and seated beside a bubbling fountain. A basin of sweet water being brought, the Arab, with soap in one hand and palm shavings in the other, lathered me from head to foot. He then brought me an old razor, and proposed to shave my head. This honour I declined. The soap being washed off, and having

been re-enveloped in warm napkins, I was conducted back to my toilet. Here I found a mattress spread with sheets and cushions, upon which I reclined. I drank a cup of coffee, though I declined the pipe which accompanied it.

I now supposed the operations of the bath were over ; but I found myself doomed to undergo another pulverization. Two beardless Arabs commenced gently rubbing the soles of my feet. This done, they pulled my toes till they cracked as before. Then they pressed back my shoulders, and endeavoured to expand my chest by pressing, pulling, twisting, and kneading my flesh until they were fatigued and I was sore. On desisting from their labours, I gave them a trifle, in gratitude for their indulgence. I lay upon the mattress for half an hour, and then dressed, and gave the keeper of the bath five piastres, with which he was perfectly satisfied.

I passed an hour and a half in the bath, and was under the hands of the operators nearly all the time ; yet the trifling sum which I gave for this attention (being about twenty-five cents) was five times the amount usually paid by the natives for a similar service.

The bath is a favourite luxury of the Egyptians, and is every where indulged in by the orientals. In Cairo alone, there are seventy public baths, and the wealthier part of the inhabitants have baths in their own houses. The public baths are accessible to all classes of citizens. Some of them are for women and children only ; others are exclusively for

men. Some of them are for both men and women: the men occupying them in the forenoon, and the women frequenting them in the afternoon. Some of the more opulent inhabitants visit the bath twice or three times a week; others once; and those who cannot afford the expense, bathe in the Nile "scot free."

"The women, when they can afford to do so, visit the bath frequently In general, all the females of a house and the young boys go together. There are few pleasures in which the women of Egypt delight so much as in the visit to the bath, where they frequently have entertainments; and often, on these occasions, they are not a little noisy in their mirth. They avail themselves of the opportunity to display their jewels and their finest clothes, and to enter into familiar conversation with those whom they meet there. Sometimes a mother chooses a bride for her son from among the girls or women whom she chances to see in the bath. In the case of the preparations for a marriage, the bath is hired for a select party, consisting of the women of two or more families; and none else are admitted. . . . Where all are friends, the younger girls indulge in more mirth and frolic. On particular occasions of festivity, they are entertained with the songs of two or more 'Awalim, hired to accompany them to the bath."*

The Turks indulge to an immoderate extent in the use of the bath.

* Lane's Modern Egyptians, ii. 49, 50.

By the ancient Egyptians, the bath was considered a luxury; since, during the seventy days of mourning observed at the death of a king, when they rent their garments, closed their temples, cast dust upon their heads, made no sacrifices, withheld themselves from all feasts, girded themselves, and went about from day to day singing mournful songs, "none dared to use the *bath* or ointments."*

Diodorus, speaking of the expense lavished upon their sacred animals, informs us that the Egyptians "forbore not to wash them in *hot baths*, anointed them with the most precious unguents, and perfumed them with the sweetest odours."†

The priests used the bath twice each day, and as often during the night; and every third day they shaved every part of their bodies.‡

Wilkinson, speaking of the baths of the ancient Egyptians, says: "The only instances I have met with in the paintings is in a tomb at Thebes, where a lady is represented with four attendants, who wait upon her and perform various duties. One removes the jewellery and clothes she has taken off, or suspends them to a stand in the apartment. Another pours water from a vase over her head, as the third rubs her arms and body with her open hands; and a fourth, seated near her, holds a sweet-scented flower to her nose, and supports her as she sits."§

Whatever may have been their taste for the bath previously, there can be no doubt of the partiality of

* Diod. i. 75.

† Ibid. i. 85.

‡ Herod. ii. 37.

§ Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, First Series, iii. 388.

the Egyptians for its luxuries under the reign of the Greeks. In the city of Alexandria alone, there were several thousand baths.

The Romans, too, were famous for bathing; and conclusive evidence of their extent and splendour is still visible in the shattered fragments of their bathing establishments strewed in ruins about the "Eternal City." Wherever the Romans permanently located, they erected theatres and baths; and in a style of solidity which has survived, in many instances, all other traces of their works. Among the hot springs of Germany, they found every facility for indulging their propensity for the bath; and in many places, through the vale of the Rhine, the remains of the Roman baths have dared the convulsions of more than eighteen hundred years!

The Germans are very fond of the bath. They frequently indulge in it for hours together. I have witnessed at some of the watering places twenty or thirty ladies and gentlemen in a bath at the same time—all seated, enveloped to their chins in water. There they pass the morning, discussing the incidents of the times; taking their coffee; reading the papers; and smoking.

In the metropolis of Hungary, I recollect seeing a bathing-house, where a warm bath may be had for a sum less than one cent! This bath, however, was supplied by a hot spring, and was frequented only by the peasants, who bathed in it promiscuously, without regard to age or sex.

The Scythians,* who, as Herodotus says, “never bathed themselves,” indulged in a *vapour bath* nevertheless, which “excited from them cries of exultation.” It was obtained by means of red-hot stones, upon which were thrown hemp-seed. From this ascended a delightfully perfumed vapour.

The Finlanders obtain a bath in a similar manner. “The poorest peasants have a small house built for the purpose. It consists of a small chamber, in the innermost part of which are placed a number of stones, which are heated till they become red. On these stones water is thrown, until the company within are involved in a thick cloud of vapour.”†

Media is said, by the process of the bath or “boiling,” to have “restored youth to the aged. She invented baths, and nourished with warm vapours all who wished it It was supposed that her patients were in reality boiled. Pelias, an old and infirm man, using this operation, died in the process.”‡

The ancient Greeks, too, were a bath-loving people; and female attendants performed the offices of the bath:

“Their necks and limbs from stains of toil they cleansed,
And, so refreshed and purified, their last
Ablution in bright tepid baths performed.
Each thus completely laved, and with smooth oil
Anointed, at the well-spread board they sat,
And quaffed, in honour of Minerva, wine
Delicious, from the brimming beaker drawn.”§

* Herod. iv. 75.

† Ibid. Note 82.

‡ Ibid.

§ Homer's Il. x.



ORIENTAL COSTUME.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Visit to the harems. — Bathing and Dancing. — Importance of the Veil. — Ladies of the “Higher Circles.” — Harems of the Patriarchs. — Seraglio of the Sultan, and his hundred Wives. — Harem of Mehemet Ali, and its Dissolution. — Banishment of Egyptian Prostitutes, and Effervescence of English Spleen.

THE ladies returned at a late hour ; and, with one exception, all were delighted with their reception and discoveries at the harems. They found the fair prisoners of these establishments adorned with precious jewels and costly attire, seated upon the floor, with their pipes in their mouths, listening to the soft murmurs of gushing fountains, and surrounded by numerous female slaves, all in dazzling costume. Their reception was cordial and hearty, though the princi-

pals did not rise from their seats. Indeed, that may have been a difficult thing ; for the real belles of the harem are literally immoveable mountains of fat.

In one house, after sherbet and coffee had gone round, the guests were invited to dance. The English ladies readily assented to this proposition on condition that the inmates of the harem, or rather those whose obesity did not constitute them "permanent fixtures," would join them. Preliminaries having been easily arranged, the ladies, regaled with the sounds of the tambourine and darabookah, commenced the mazy dance. The *young* ladies, and the Misses Wrinklebottom and Rimtaper in particular, acquitted themselves with infinite credit, and amused the Egyptians beyond measure.

The Misses Rimtaper and Wrinklebottom were all tall, without any protuberances of surface, and of nearly the same circumference throughout their entire altitude. This style of figure pleased the Egyptian ladies wondrously ; and after the dance was over they proposed to dismantle one of the Misses Wrinklebottom, under pretence of studying the English fashion of dress. The *young* lady, however, positively refused. Desisting from their importunities with Miss Wrinklebottom, they took off their own jewellery and many articles of their clothing, exhibiting one thing after another to their guests for their amusement, whom they expected to see imitate their example. None of the ladies, however, were inclined to indulge this *curiosity*.

These endeavours at nudation proving abortive,

the Egyptians next proposed the luxuries of the bath. This civility was also declined by all excepting Mrs. Wrinklebottom; she, not having taken a bath since her departure from England, and thinking a warm ablution might be serviceable to her, politely availed herself of this opportunity for initiation into the mysteries of an Egyptian bath.

She entered the bathing-room attended by five or six black slaves, who somewhat coarsely disrobed her, and commenced their operations in a manner that shocked her nerves, and seemed to endanger her personal safety. Still weak from the effects of her late injury, she was a mere bawble in the hands of the Nubian girls, and they tossed, patted, dragged, thumped, rubbed, scrubbed, raked, and scraped her, till the poor woman was in a pitiable plight. They cracked every joint in her frame; and when they brought their *cracking* skill to bear upon her back and neck, she thought they were about to sever her head from her shoulders.

In the mean time, the young Egyptian ladies, anxious to participate in the amusement, left the saloon, flocked about her, minutely inspecting her person, and assisted the slaves in poaching her flesh to a jelly. After which they seized the various articles of her toilet, and commenced a destructive investigation of every object in detail: petticoat, chemise, cape, cap, collar, shawl, bonnet, shoes, stockings, stays, and satchel, all passed unceremoniously from hand to hand among the crowd. They even began to rip

certain articles to pieces, in order to study more satisfactorily their construction !

It has seldom fallen to the lot of lovely woman to be more unhappily situated than was Mrs. Wrinklebottom in the bath. Exhausted and faint with its frightful process ; still in the hands of her tormentors, who continued to pommel her poor frame ; no one near who understood her language ; and her clothes literally torn in shreds !—she thought her time had verily arrived. She resolved to make a desperate effort to rescue herself and garments from the hands of the barbarians ; and, strange to say, succeeded. She looked upon her escape, however, as being effected through the agency of some supernatural power. When she was ushered back to the drawing-room, she was an altered person. Her appearance was doleful indeed. She could scarcely stand alone ; her garments were in great disorder, and some of them hung in tatters ! The ladies immediately took leave, and returned with her to her lodgings.

The Egyptian ladies have little freedom of action, being seldom permitted to walk the streets unattended by the eunuchs who watch the harems ; and then they are smothered in long thick veils and cumbersome robes, which conceal every part of the person except the eyes.

So essential is the veil to the Egyptians, that it is considered far more disreputable for a woman to expose her face to the view of strangers than any other part of her person !* On this account, one not unfre-

* Lane's *Modern Egyptians*, i. 245.

quently witnesses the peasant-women covering their faces on the approach of a man, while their legs and breasts are bare, and little or no covering is seen upon their bodies. Indeed, if their faces are concealed, they give themselves very little concern about other parts.



AN EGYPTIAN LADY, ATTIRED FOR THE PROMENADE.

The hideous custom of veiling the face, now indicative of virtue among the Moslems, was considered, in the days of Jacob, a sure sign of immorality, the veil being hung out upon harlots, as in the case of Tamar,* Judah's daughter-in-law ; whom, in his way as he went up to the sheep-shearers to Timnath, he met : and " when Judah saw her, he thought her to

* Gen. xxxviii. 14, 15.

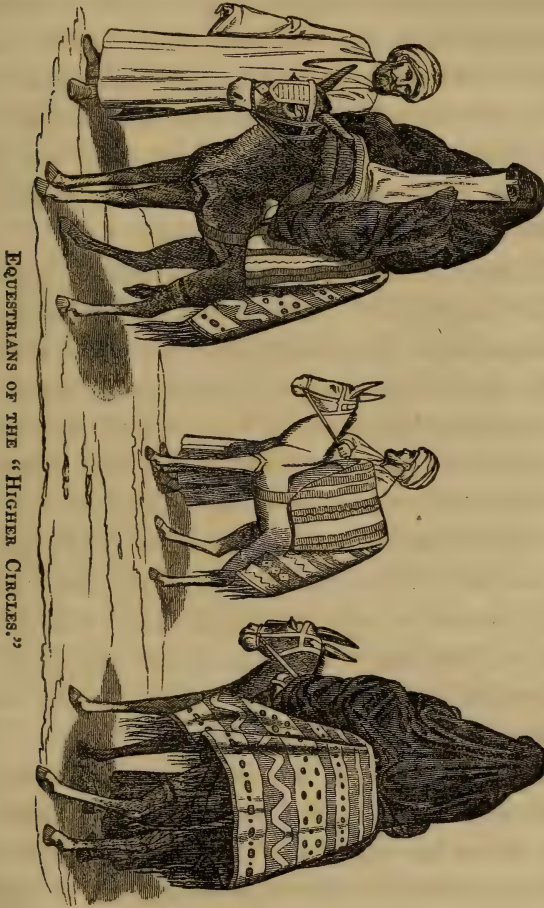
be an harlot, because she had covered her face. She had put her widow's garments off from her, and covered her with a veil, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place."

When the ladies of the "higher circles" go out, they are so disguised that they cannot be recognised by their nearest friends. Sometimes the more opulent are seen upon donkeys; then their appearance is indeed unique. Their head-dress, masks, and ornaments, being adjusted; their eyebrows and lashes ingeniously touched with *kohl*; their feet and hands embellished with henna; their slippers and yellow boots put on; and all being enveloped in a capacious black silk covering, with every part concealed from view except their eyes (not even the hands are seen), they are mounted upon donkeys, with high saddles, where they are not unfrequently held by the eunuchs who accompany them.

Thus they go out for exercise and complimentary visits. Their figure is rather ridiculous, as they ride through the little narrow streets of a Turkish city, resembling bales of merchandise done up in cloaks, with painted eyes, rather than ladies of quality.

Such is the custom of the country; nor do I think, with the exception of their being half smothered in the abominable masks, that they present a more remarkable figure than the ladies of civilized nations, decked in some of the modern fashions and whimsicalities—for both are absurd, and obnoxious to good taste. This, however, is the only way in which a Moslem lady of "standing" can go abroad. As she

seldom goes outside the town, she reaps little advantage from the change of air; since that, in the stived-up, filthy streets, is scarcely more pure than that of the confined apartments of her own dwelling.



EQUESTRIANS OF THE "HIGHER CIRCLES."

Moslem ladies are never taught to read, and seldom even so much as to say their prayers. Consequently the door to intellectual improvement and all literary

enjoyment is shut against them. They are watched like birds in a cage, fed like beasts in a den, live in sufferance, never in the confidence of their husbands, and see little of their society but when required to minister to their caprice and pleasures. Can a condition more painful than this be depicted? Death, under ordinary circumstances, were preferable; and even with the absolution of some Tetzal-vender of indulgences, being broken upon the wheel of the pontifical inquisition, amid the corruptions and enormities of the dark ages, could hardly be worse.

“Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines.”* — “David had seven wives and ten concubines, and David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem after he was come from Hebron.”† And Rehoboam had eighteen wives and sixty concubines.‡ Abraham, also, besides his wife Sarah, by whom he had Isaac, who heired his estates, had two concubines, Hagar and Keturah, by whom also he had children.§ And “Abijah waxed mighty, and married fourteen wives.”||

Thus it appears that a multiplicity of wives was not uncommon among the patriarchs and Jews; — though under the dispensation of the Saviour, this abominable custom was abolished, and the matrimonial state brought back to its primitive simplicity.¶

* 1 Kings xi. 1, 3. † 2 Sam. iii. 2-5: v. 13. ‡ 2 Chron. xi. 21.

§ Gen. xvi. 3: xxv. 1. || 2 Chron. xiii. 21. ¶ Gen. ii. 18, 21, 24.

Since that period, though polygamy is justly condemned, and is no longer the custom of civilized nations; yet, among Mohammedans, nothing is more common than for a man to have four wives and a numerous train of concubines!

We have abundant testimony, in every age of the world, to prove the evils of this pernicious custom; and that it has been attended with infinite mischief both to individuals and communities. In Abraham's* family it created a schism which no gratification or advantage arising from his having more than one wife could possibly compensate.

To Solomon it was the source of the greatest evils, both to himself and the kingdom of Judah. His heart was turned away from the Lord† through the influence of his strange women; and but for his father‡ David's sake, his kingdom would have been taken from him in his old age. It was no doubt under a deep conviction of this folly, and in allusion to the condemnation of heaven for allowing his heart to become corrupt through their seductive influences, that he pronounced these remarkable words: "The mouth of strange women is a deep pit; he that is abhorred of the Lord shall fall therein. The lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil; but her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell."§

The perplexities and sorrow of David, occasioned by his love of strange women, are proverbial.

* Gen. xxi. 9-11.

† 1 Kings xi. 4, 7, 8, 9.—Nehemiah xiii. 26.

‡ 1 Kings xi. 2-4.

§ Prov. xxii. 14 : v. 3-5.

The children of Israel were led into difficulty, and cursed with a devastating plague, on account of the trespasses which they committed against the Lord, at the instigation of the Midianitish women.*

The spirit of jealousy and backbiting on account of the Ethiopian woman, one of the wives of Moses, was fraught with evil, though this marriage was justified of the Lord, who visited Aaron and Miriam with his judgments.

The Jews, after enjoying a variety of good and bad fortune ; sometimes exalted to heaven, as it were, and then suffering in bondage, were full of affliction in the days of Ezra† on account of their “strange wives.” Other instances might be mentioned, were it necessary, wherein the inhabitants of the old world were brought into sore difficulties on account of too many strange women. Those of the present day who still indulge in a multiplicity of wives, are oftentimes no less perplexed and in doubt how to dispose of the schisms that spring up in the bosom of the harem.

While marriage, under the abuses with which Mohammedans still entangle it, and with which the ancients were no less prone to envelope it, has seldom in any age resulted otherwise than in dishonour and afflictions,—marriage, as instituted by God, in the first setting out of man, and restored, confirmed, and blessed by Jesus Christ, is conducive to the happiness and civilization of mankind. Nevertheless it is curious to examine this peculiarity of the East, which

* Num. xxxi. 16.

† Ezra ix. 1, 2.

illustrates, in no small degree, the strange state of society in the land of the patriarchs.

When we were in Hebron, we passed two nights and a day at the house of a man who had four wives. We saw them and all their numerous progeny. None of these ladies were what would be called handsome among our fair and gentle countrywomen; and the withered, downcast individual, who was at the head of the establishment, was the personification of misery.

In contemplating this unhappy family, crowded together in a state of confusion and filth, the thought suggested itself that such, in some respects, might have been the domestic circle of the Psalmist, living in a state of polygamy in the same city; when "unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his first-born was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; and his second Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom, the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; and the fourth, Adonijah, the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah, the son of Abital; and the sixth, Ithream, by Eglah, David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron."* This has probably been the custom of the Hebronites ever since the time of Abraham.

While on our way from Smyrna to Constantinople, we had but just entered the Dardanelles, when the Pacha of Salonica came on board with his wives and their "maids of honour," comprising some sixteen in all, who, together with their offspring, cradles, and napkins, took up their quarters *on deck*. The loving

* 2 Samuel iii. 2-5.

husband was handsomely provided with a good state-room in the *gentlemen's cabin*. The Pacha scarcely spoke to his wives while on board ; and when they left the steamer, his women were placed in charge of some under servants, while he went on shore with much form, accompanied by armed janizaries.

The harems of eastern princes are upon a magnificent scale : they include the handsomest women in the realm, who are kept in a state of seclusion — never seen unveiled, except by the lord of the harem, or some very near relatives. They are richly attired, and adorned with pearls and precious jewels.

The harem of the Sultan of Turkey is closed at his death, and his women pass the remainder of their days in all the retirement of the most rigid community of nuns. Their fate is like that of David's "ten concubines whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward and fed them, but went not in unto them ; so they were shut up unto the day of their death."*

Upon the accession of a prince to the throne, he commences a new harem. It is thus with the present Sultan, who, at the time we were in Constantinople, had been upon the throne scarcely nine months ; and yet he had one hundred wives and concubines ! To this round number, each of the pachas, as they came to Constantinople with the accustomed tribute, accompanied it with one or more of the fairest girls in their respective pachalics, as presents to his Serene Highness. Consequently, this debauched creature,

* 2 Samuel xx. 3.

diseased and declining with excess—whose attenuated frame seemed but a shadow, around which his long black cloak assumed the collapsed form of a blanket swung over a stake—is in a fair way to ensure himself an early grave, and to make generous additions to the public burden.

Nine months had scarcely elapsed after his accession to the throne, when the inhabitants of Constantinople were big with expectation for the result. Preparations for a general illumination were completed; and the full-charged guns of the Turkish fleet, drawn up in front of the Golden Horn, were ready to breathe forth their thunders at the first official signal of a new-born prince.

While this anxious watching of the mountain agitated the Moslems *without*, there was no little excitement existing *within* the walls of the seraglio. A strong competition prevailed among the Sultan's women for the honour of giving birth to the heir-apparent. There was nearly a tie between some eight or ten of them; or, as the English jockeys say, "they were neck and neck." It was a matter of the greatest uncertainty which of them all would be the favoured one. The time of all was near at hand, and each was anxious to come out ahead. There was one whose chance for the prize, in a fair, honest course, was as good as any of the other hundred better halves of the Sultan, if not better. She, however, at the suggestion of some silly person, had the folly to take some kind of nostrum, with a view to bring on her labours before the time. Instead of an heir to the

throne, by this proceeding she produced an abortion; and she, poor thing, instead of a crown of honour, received a watery grave. She was thrown into the Bosphorus!

Mehemet Ali, though a mere governor of a part of the Turkish empire, had, until within the three or four years last past, one of the best-regulated harems in the Orient. In point of splendid costume, it might not equal the brilliancy appertaining to the seraglio. But, touching the no trifling matter of pretty women, he is said to have quite outstripped the Grand Seigneur. It was under the direction of his three most esteemed wives, by all of whom he has had children. They took a deep interest in it; and, being charmed by its varied attractions, they deeply regretted its dissolution.

“There is,” says Solomon, “to every thing a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to love, and a time to hate.”* — “The time has come,” said his physician to the Pacha, “when you must abandon the harem, or prepare for death!”

This was an unexpected blow. The harem was a darling hobby with his esteemed wives; and humanity, if not affection, had warmed the Pacha into more than an ordinary regard for all its inmates. Doubtless some of the women had a stronger hold upon his sympathies than others; but, after an inti-

* Eccl. iii. 1, 5, 8, 9.

macy for a succession of years, in a country where these establishments are regarded as the most sacred thing pertaining to a Turk; and considering that the Pacha was raised among them,—possessed of the strong predilection in their favour common to his countrymen,—he must have been even worse than the “blood-thirsty tyrant” that the English represent him, not to have been touched at the idea of turning them out unprotected upon the world. To cage them up, like the women of the old Sultan, struck him as being little better than death; or rather, it was a kind of entombment of his old favourites, with the breath of life still active and gnawing upon their minds with all the horrors of a thousand deaths. Nor was it a trifling thing to overcome the vanity naturally attendant upon keeping up a brilliant harem.

In the East, every man of fortune is expected to be master of a harem, proportionate in splendour to his reputed wealth. To abandon it, therefore, altogether, can be scarcely less mortifying to the pride of an orientalist, than for an English lord to give up his horses and hounds, and the red plush breeches and powdered wigs of his servants; or for a worthless rake of New York to surrender his “turn-out” to the sheriff. These deprivations are all equally wounding to the feelings of men of a certain stamp; for they are looked upon as essential to “keeping up appearances.”

A crisis had arrived in the affairs of the Pacha, requiring the sacrifice of his harem, and he resolved to make it manfully. His wives, perceiving their

master decided, wisely entered into his views, with the secret hope, doubtless, of bringing out a new harem, at some future day, even more brilliant and attractive than that which they were called upon to abandon. The Pacha told them that he was about to marry off all the women, and to endow each with a sum of money ; and said that he would furnish the money and the men, and leave to them the trifling task of pairing the parties, and paying out the wedding dowries.

This was a poor consolation ; but, since it was all that they could reasonably expect under the circumstances, the wives submitted with a grace becoming their exalted standing. Indeed, it was rather flattering to their vanity ; for it evinced a continuance of the Pacha's esteem for them, though about to dissolve for ever his connexion with all his other women.

The ladies were to be married to the officers of the army ; and it was arranged that the grooms should file along through the regal apartments at a certain hour, and that the wives, intrusted with the important commission of deciding to whom of the fair each of the sons of Mars was to be wedded, should sit in an adjoining room, concealed from the gaze of the officers ; but, at the same time, where they could have full view of the latter, and then book the parties, who, in their opinion, judging from appearance, were best suited to be united with each other for life. This plan having been consummated, and the ladies apprized of their destiny, the Pacha commanded the attendance of the officers designated for the honour ; in-

formed them of his pleasure, and ordered them to the harem for exhibition before the lady umpires.

This mark of distinction was wholly unexpected ; and the regret of the officers at the dissolution of the harem was as deep as that of the wives of his Highness, or the women with whom they were about to form "matrimonial connexions." Long used to the dangers and pleasures of the camp, to which thousands of females are always attached, they had little felt the want of wives, nor had they been assiduous in cultivating a taste for the sweets of the conjugal state.

Their position was not unlike those who may be compelled to take office against their will ; or perhaps more like that of poor Burns ; who, having been raised by his Majesty's government to the important station of gauger, was emphatically told by the nobles then in power, that he "had been elevated to office to *act*, not to *think!*" Thus it was with the officers of his Highness : the command had gone forth, and there was no alternative but to obey.

The nuptial hour arrived ; the officers appeared, and received their respective wives and their dowries ; the old harem resounded with music ; festivity crowned the closing day, and hermetically sealed the Pacha's harem for ever. And all the eloquence of his wives has not been able to re-open it.

The Pacha had no sooner resolved to live a virtuous life himself, than he commenced a reform among his subjects. He restricted every man to the *lawful* number of *four wives*, and such "maids of honour"

as their circumstances would enable them to support. Accordingly, with this laudable object in view, he banished all prostitutes from Lower Egypt, and decreed death to all who might thereafter infringe this moral regulation.

This proceeding, as I was informed, produced great commotion among the Franks, particularly the English, who immediately found Cairo the dullest, "nastiest," and most unpleasant place in the Orient;—"there were no amusements."

Some of them thought a "formal complaint" ought to have been at once forwarded to his Excellency the English ambassador at Constantinople. Others were of opinion that a petition to her Majesty was the better mode of procedure. Others again, more deeply vexed at this "high-handed measure," as they termed it, thought the subject sufficiently grave to justify her Majesty in sending out "ten sail of the line," with a "formal demand" for the immediate restoration of the public women, accompanied with orders to blockade Alexandria forthwith, in case of the Pacha's refusal to comply with this extremely modest request. They insisted that her Majesty's government was bound to protect the rights of all "her loyal subjects" in every part of the world; and that this was an oppressive grievance, which called for immediate reparation, or bold and prompt warlike measures. There were others who, though languishing with *ennui*, and greatly displeased at the new regulation, were nevertheless for diplomatic temporizing. They were wisely of opinion that, unless an opium question or something

else could be connected with it, this of itself could hardly form a justifiable pretext for war; and were her Majesty to commence hostilities against his Highness the Pacha for this alone, they were fearful that it might make an unfavourable impression on the minds of other nations. These were fiercely replied to by the more desperate of her Majesty's subjects, who said:—

“What the devil does England care for other nations? If other nations have any thing to say about England's doing as she pleases, why, that can be arranged at the cannon's mouth, under the ‘wooden walls.’—‘Ten sail of the line’ will settle this business directly. England is not to be insulted; and if the vested rights of ‘her Majesty's loyal subjects’ are to be thus trampled under foot, ‘where is the dignity of her Imperial Majesty's crown?’—‘Englishmen have but one word;’ they are not to be trifled with. No! we are for no half-way, temporizing measures. ‘Ten sail of the line,’ a ‘formal demand,’ and absolute, positive war—war to the hilt, unless our grievances are forthwith redressed, and suitable guarantees given by the Pacha that henceforth and for ever hereafter, all ‘her Majesty's loyal subjects’ who may visit Egypt for amusement, business, ‘scientific research’ (such as violating tombs and robbing temples), or any other purpose whatsoever, shall be respected; and their rights, privileges, and *innocent amusements* shall remain inalienable, sacred, and undisturbed.”

This made a terrible noise at the time, and the fragile-nerved part of the community thought war would

be the consequence ; but the Englishmen subsequently came into the slave-market as competitors with the Turks for the "cleverest" Nubian and other female slaves ; and the whole affair happily blew over without bloodshed.

The regulation of the prostitutes of Egypt is now about the only thing that remains undisturbed by the "Great Powers" — who, under pretence of maintaining what they sophistically call "the balance of power" (i. e. to balance all power in their own hands), have cut up the Pacha's dominions, dashed the sceptre from his hands, substituted anarchy for order, stifled the voice of reform, and arrested the progress of civilization.



JOHN BULL IN A FUME.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Religious Intolerance. — Apostacy of Women punished with Death. — Infidelity legally protected. — Penalty of Babbling and Backbiting. — State of Female Society. — Effects of Public Opinion. — Fashion and Finery of the Old Egyptians. — Exalted Privilege of the Ancient Women of Egypt. — Novel Mode of punishing Delinquents.

“THE Prophet did not forbid *women* to attend public prayers in a mosque, but pronounced it better for them to pray in private; but in Cairo, neither females nor young boys are allowed to pray with the congregation in the mosques, nor even to be present at any time of prayer. Formerly, women were permitted, but were obliged to place themselves apart from the men, and behind the latter; because the Moslems are of opinion, that the presence of females inspires a different kind of devotion from that which is requisite in a place dedicated to the worship of God. Very few women in Egypt ever pray at all.”* However small the part which the Egyptian women are allowed to share in public worship, they are never-

* Lane's *Modern Egyptians*, i. 117.

theless held accountable for their apostacy from the inculcated creed and dogmas of Mohammedanism. Apostacy is considered one of the most heinous sins; and nothing short of the death of the inflexible apostate is regarded as a sufficient atonement for an offence of such enormity.

Mr. Lane says: "I once saw a woman paraded through the streets of Cairo, and afterward taken down to the Nile to be drowned, for having apostatized from the faith of Mohammed, and having married a Christian. Unfortunately, a blue cross which she had tattooed on her arm, led to her detection by one of her former friends, in a bath. She was mounted upon a high-saddled ass, such as ladies in Egypt usually ride, and very respectably dressed, attended by soldiers, and surrounded by a rabble, who, instead of commiserating, uttered loud imprecations against her. The *ckadee*, who passed sentence upon her, exhorted her, in vain, to return to her former faith. Her own father was her accuser! She was taken in a boat to the midst of the river, stripped nearly naked, strangled, and then thrown into the stream."*

Detected infidelity seldom meets a punishment less fearful than awaits the fair delinquent in religious faith. As *four* Moslem witnesses, however, are required to bring this serious charge effectually home to the unfaithful spouse, the Egyptian ladies are seldom found otherwise than pure, legally speaking, in regard to all breaches of faithfulness toward their lords.

* Lane's Modern Egyptians, i. 147.

The requisition of four *eye-witnesses*, to establish a charge of unfaithfulness, is said to have been decreed by the Prophet, to meet an accusation of that kind brought against his own wife. She was consequently *honourably* absolved from punishment; and subsequent "revelations" cleared her character from every malicious stain that had settled upon it through the vile calumniators of her fair name.

Such a law may appear to be extraordinary; but I suppose it was promulgated by the Prophet on pretty much the same principle that actuated the Pope of Rome under somewhat similar circumstances, perhaps, wherein sixty-four witnesses were required to convict a cardinal of adultery—a law which was sure to keep the cardinals quite above suspicion.

The penalty and mode of punishing convicted adulterers and adulteresses among the modern Egyptians are the same as were promulgated in the old Levitical law,* and observed by the Jews, even after the birth of the Saviour;† though in cases of male delinquents, the penalty of death is rarely or never exacted. But the women, who have been found guilty of a crime so revolting, seldom escape the utmost rigour of the law. Their nearest relatives are often their accusers and executioners!

"When a Fellah is found to have been unfaithful to her husband, in general he or her brother throws her into the Nile, with a stone tied to her neck; or cuts her in pieces, and then throws her remains into the river. In most instances, also, a father or brother

* Lev. xx. 10.

† John viii. 5

punishes in the same manner an unmarried daughter or sister who has been guilty of incontinence. These relatives are considered more disgraced than the husband by the crime of the woman, and are often despised if they do not thus punish her.”*

The salutary provision of the Prophet, wherein he has declared four eye-witnesses to the fact requisite to the conviction of the accused, naturally renders the legal infraction of it rather rare. Indeed, so well did Mohammed hedge round this odious crime, it is dangerous for slanderers idly to babble about their fair neighbours, unless they have four faithful Moslem witnesses that they can rely upon to establish what they may have intended only to utter in a corner.

The Koran† has the following favourable clause in behalf of the women, which hangs fearfully over the heads of wanton backbiting babblers, who may desire to injure the good name of the fair sex without a cause, or rather without being able to convict the fair subject of the crime alleged against her:—“Those who accuse women of reputation, and produce not four witnesses, scourge them with eighty stripes, and receive not their testimony for ever, for such an infamous prevarication, excepting those who shall afterward repent; for God is gracious and merciful. They who shall accuse their wives, and shall have no witness besides themselves, the testimony of one of them, that he swear four times by God that he speaketh the truth and the faith, the

* Lane's Modern Egyptians, i. 272.

† Chap. xxiv. 2-9.

curse of God on him if he be a liar; and it shall avert the punishment, if she swear four times by God that he is a liar, and if the fifth, the wrath of God on her if he speak the truth."

It is also provided that unmarried people convicted of this offence, be punished by scourging with one hundred stripes. Sometimes married women, guilty of infidelity, are privately put to death, even without being legally convicted of the crime.

Many ancient and modern authors, who have written with much intelligence upon the customs of the Egyptians, have informed us that women, in the glorious days of Egypt, occupied a position scarcely less honourable than the rank they hold in civilized countries at the present day. They were allowed much more freedom, and exercised a much greater influence over the men, than was ever enjoyed by the women of Greece, even in her most polished and refined age, or of Rome at any period of her imperial splendour.

The ancient Egyptians indulged a strange license respecting the number of wives that each might possess. But public opinion failed not to correct an evil that was not properly provided for by judicial enactments. It was considered no less disreputable for a man to have two wives in Egypt than it is with us at the present time, where it is justly regarded as an infamous crime.

The women of Egypt, three thousand years ago, are said to have exhibited a fondness for dress that would not dishonour the best regulated taste, in mat-

ters of that kind, of the ladies of the nineteenth century. At their parties, as pictured upon the walls of the tombs of Thebes, the ladies are represented, admiring their jewels and finery, with no less interest than such things are often dwelt upon by the ladies of this enlightened age.



RINGS, SIGNETS, BRACELETS, AND EAR-RINGS OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS.

Mr. Wilkinson* says: "The patterns or the value of trinkets were discussed with proportionate interest. The maker of an ear-ring, and the shop where it was purchased, were anxiously inquired; each compared the workmanship, the style, and the material of those

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, ii. 366, 367.

she wore, coveted her neighbour's, or preferred her own; and women of every class vied with each other in the display of jewels of silver and jewels of gold,* in the texture of their 'raiment,' the neatness of their sandals, and the arrangement or beauty of their hair."†

Diodorus says that the revenues accruing from the fisheries of the lake Mœris, after that monarch "had arranged the sluices for the introduction of the water, and established every thing connected with it, he assigned, as an annual dowry to the queen, for the purchase of jewels, ointments, and other objects connected with the toilet.‡ The provision certainly was very liberal, being a talent every day, or upward of £70,700 sterling a year; and where this formed only a portion of the pin-money of the Egyptian queens, to whom the revenues of the city of Anthylla, famous for its wines, were given for their dress, it is certain that they had no reason to complain of the allowance they enjoyed."§ The same privilege was continued to the queens of Egypt after the Persian conquest.

If such was the liberality of the Pharaohs to the queens of Egypt, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the opulent citizens were equally indulgent in proportion to their wealth; and that they lavished large sums upon their wives and daughters for objects of dress, jewelry, and other finery.

* Exod. xii. 35.

† The Egyptian women appear to have been very proud of their hair, and locks of it, when very long, were sometimes cut off and wrapped up separately, to be buried in their tombs after death.

‡ Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, iii. 64.

§ The queen of England has an annual income of about \$3,000,000!

From the great amount of jewels* borrowed by the Israelites when they fled from Egypt, we may infer that it was not unusual for the Egyptian ladies to deck themselves with ornaments. They not only indulged in the richest articles of dress, and jewels, but they were allowed to come out into the world, and to mingle in society. Representations of social entertainments are frequent on the tombs.

“We find,” says Wilkinson, “men and women sitting together, both strangers as well as members of the same family; a privilege not conceded to females among the Greeks, except with their relations. This not only argues a very great advancement in civilization, especially in an eastern nation, but proves, among many other Egyptian customs, how very far this people exceed the Greeks in the habits of social life.”†

The women of Egypt were welcome guests at the festive board; where, if the paintings that represent those scenes are to receive literal credence, they were not forbidden the use of wine—which they indulged in occasionally, until their situation became scarcely less enviable than the Englishmen, who, a year or two since, committed such abominations in the palace of the Grand Duke of Tuscany. They, like all the descendants of Eve, were not exempt from the weaknesses of their common mother, and could not withstand all sorts of temptation, any more than

* Exod. xi. 2:—“Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver and jewels of gold.”

† Wilkinson’s Ancient Egyptians, ii. 389.

the other sex. Consequently, while the men are sometimes represented on the walls of the tombs, returning home from a drinking party, borne along in



RETURNING HOME

a state of intoxication by their servants, the ladies are seen supported by their maids, throwing off from their acidiferous stomachs that redundancy of poisonous fluid in which they in an evil hour had too freely indulged.



AFTER DINNER.

The women of Greece* were not permitted to appear at any of their entertainments, except those to which relatives only were invited; "and, in early

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, ii. 389.

times at Rome, it was unlawful for women, or indeed for young men below the age of thirty, to drink wine, except at sacrifices. And so scrupulous were they on this point, in the time of Romulus, that Egnatius Mecennius caused his wife to be put to death for infringing this law, as if guilty of a crime.* While the imperious Romans were guilty of such barbarity toward the ladies, we are assured that the Egyptians, in their contracts of marriage, gave authority to their wives over their husbands, at which time the husbands promised to be obedient to their wives in all things.†

“In this country,” says Herodotus, “the women leave to the men the management of the loom in the retirement of the house, whilst they themselves are engaged abroad in the business of commerce.”‡ The honour of ascending the throne was conceded by the Egyptians to the ladies at a very remote period; “and it was a custom among them,” says Diodorus, “to honour a queen, and allow her more power and authority than a king.”§ But however great were the privileges and powerful was the authority exercised by the higher classes of the ancient Egyptian women, there were nevertheless those among them who were doomed to incessant toil, under circumstances little less deplorable than those which surround the degenerate females of modern Egypt.

During the early ages of the world, the duties and occupations of women varied very considerably from

* Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, ii. 166.

† Diod. i. 33.

‡ Herod. ii. 35.

§ Diod. i. 32.

those of a later and more civilized period, and were regulated according to the peculiar manners and habits of different communities. "Among pastoral tribes,



they drew water, kept the sheep, and superintended the herds as well as the flocks. As with the Arabs of the present day, they prepared both the furniture and the stuffs of which the tents themselves were made; and like the Greek women, they were generally employed in weaving, spinning, and other sedentary occupations within doors. Needle-work and embroide-

ry were favourite amusements of the Grecian women, in which it is highly probable the Egyptian ladies occupied much of their time ; and we have positive evidence, from the sculptures, of numerous females being employed in weaving and in the use of the distaff. But Egyptian women were not kept in



EGYPTIAN WOMEN USING THE DISTAFF.

the same secluded manner as those of ancient Greece ; who, besides being confined to a particular part of the house, the most remote from the hall of entrance, and generally in the uppermost part of the building, were not even allowed to go out of doors without a veil, as is the case in many oriental countries at the present day. Newly-married women were almost as strictly kept as virgins ; and by the laws of Solon, no lady could go out at night without a lighted torch* before her chariot, or leave home with more than three garments. They were guarded by men, and oftentimes by old men and eunuchs ; and the secluded life they led was very similar to that imposed upon females among modern Moslems. But the Egyp-

* No person can lawfully walk the streets of Athens in the evening without a lantern or a lighted torch, at the present day.

tians treated their women very differently, and in a manner much more worthy of a civilized people.”*

The lenity and indulgence of the ancients did not extend so far as to blind their eyes to palpable crimes, which the ladies of old Egypt sometimes had the weakness to commit. Some of the punishments partook more of the barbarous feeling that pervades the breasts of oriental rulers of our time, than of the highly cultivated state of society which is supposed to have existed in Egypt thirty-five hundred years ago. Death was seldom exacted as the penalty of crime, except in cases of murder.†

A more common way of punishing women for the crime of adultery, was to cut off their noses. Whether a chastisement of such severity had the effect to restrain crime and enforce chastity or not, all must concede that the penalty was savage in the extreme.

Male delinquents, in all cases of this kind, suffered a bastinading to the amount of a thousand blows, except in cases where violence had been used against a free woman, when they were punished in a signal manner.

In the loss of the nose, it was supposed that the fair would be deprived of a most useful, and if not always the most ornamental feature of her face, at least it was the last that she would desire to part with. In any case, it could hardly fail to detract considerably from her personal beauty.

The women, however, did not enjoy an undivided monopoly of having their noses cut off. The privi-

* Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, ii. 59.

† *Ibid.* ii. 39.

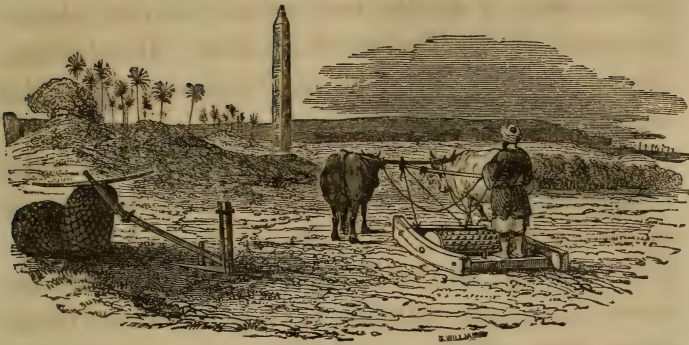
lege was sometimes conferred upon the men ; who, by their dexterity in house-breaking, and their skill in robbery, exhibited claims sufficiently strong to merit that distinction. Diodorus informs us that “ after a just and strict inquiry, and certain knowledge of their guilt, they were ordered to have their noses cut off, and to be banished into the uttermost parts of the desert ; to a city built for them, called, from the cutting off the noses of the inhabitants, Rhinocorura, which is situated in the confines of Egypt and Syria, in a barren place, destitute of all manner of provision.”*

Thus the lives of the culprits were spared ; and, as they were never allowed to return again to their native land, but obliged to support themselves by industry in a barren and inhospitable region, all must admit that their punishment was sufficiently striking to convince all that “ the way of transgressors is hard.”

* Dioid. i. 64.



NASAL EMBELLISHMENTS.



HELIOPOLIS.

CHAPTER XXXV.

Visit to Heliopolis, the On of the Scriptures. — The Obelisk. — Temple of the Sun. — Schools, Scholars, and Priests of Heliopolis. — The Phœnix. — Tree under which reposed the Holy Family. — “Mad-House.” — Sir Danbury Rintaper and the Reverend Mr. Dunderblix.

HELIOPOLIS, where Joseph,* in accordance with the wishes of Pharaoh, married Asenath, daughter of Poti-pherah, priest of On, is about two hours' ride from Cairo. It lies in a north-easterly direction from the latter, and is approached by a well-beaten path along the border of the Syrian desert.

A lofty obelisk of red granite marks the site of the ancient city. Though thirty-five hundred years have faded into oblivion since this relic of Egyptian art was erected, it is still as beautiful as when fresh from the hands of the sculptor. Like a venerable patriarch, who has survived every kindred and friend, this

* Gen. xli. 45-50.

lonely object is all that now remains of the pristine splendour of the Temple of the Sun. Besides this, there is nothing left of all the by-gone glory of the city of On.

Heliopolis was the ancient University, whence the celebrated philosophers of Greece “drew the wisdom of the Egyptians.”

The priests of the Temple of the Sun were renowned for their learning. They restrained themselves from the use of wine, and were devoted to study and meditation: “hearing and teaching those things which regard the divine nature.”* They were the teachers of the most celebrated Egyptians; and Plato, Eudoxus, Pythagoras, and other Greek sages, were numbered among their scholars. Until the accession of the Ptolemies to the throne of the Pharaohs, Heliopolis continued to hold its literary rank; though it never recovered from the desolating blow which it received from the hands of the Persian conquerors. When Strabo visited the place, “it was entirely deserted, though the houses in which Eudoxus and Plato had studied were still shown to the Greek travellers.”† The inhabitants are represented to have been “the most ingenious of all the Egyptians.”‡ When Alexandria became the metropolis, the seat of learning and the arts, Heliopolis went to decay.

Mnevis, one of the sacred bulls of Egypt, consecrated to Osiris,§ was kept at Heliopolis, and hon-

* Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, Second Series, i. 301, 302.

† Wilkinson's *Thebes*, 317.

‡ Herod. ii. 3.

§ Diod. i. 28.

oured by the Egyptians next to Apis, which was kept at Memphis. These two animals were worshipped as deities in all parts of Egypt.

Lions* are said to have been kept in the court of the temple, and were considered emblems of the sun. The statue of the cat, too, had a conspicuous place assigned it in the temple.

Herodotus gives a singular account of the loss and recovery of the sight of Pheron, son and successor of Sesostris, who, in gratitude for the return of his vision, "sent magnificent presents to all the more celebrated temples. To that of the Sun† he sent two obelisks Each was formed of one single stone, one hundred cubits high and eight broad."

Wilkinson says, the obelisk now standing in Heliopolis "was erected by Osirtasen I., about seventeen hundred years before our era."‡ During the reign of this prince, the Temple of the Sun "was either founded or received additions, and one of the obelisks bearing his name attests the skill to which they had attained in the difficult art of sculpturing granite."§

Of the many obelisks abstracted from Egypt by the Romans, the first were taken from Heliopolis. These "being dedicated to Rê, the divinity of the place, the Romans were led to conclude that all others belonged to the same god. But the obelisks of Thebes were ascribed to Amun, the presiding deity of that city; and though several of those at Rome came from Thebes, and were therefore dedicated to Amun, the

* Diod. i. 296.

† Herod. ii. 91.

‡ Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, i. 9.

§ Ibid. i. 44.

first impressions were too strong to be removed ; and the notion of their exclusive appropriation to the Sun continued and has been repeated to the present day.”*

Heliopolis was also famous for the visit of the Phœnix, which came from Arabia to Egypt once in the course of five hundred years, to solemnize the funeral obsequies of the parent bird, by burning its remains upon the altar of the Temple of the Sun. Herodotus, in his account of the Phœnix, does not pretend to have seen, while in Egypt, any thing but the picture of this bird, to which, if it bear any resemblance, “the wings are partly of a gold and partly of a crimson colour, and its form and size are perfectly like the eagle. They say that it comes from Arabia to the Temple of the Sun, bearing the dead body of its parent, enclosed in myrrh. It makes a ball of myrrh shaped like an egg, as large as it is able to carry, which it proves by experiment. This done, it excavates the mass, into which it introduces the body of the dead bird ; it again closes the aperture with myrrh, and the whole becomes of the same weight as when composed entirely of myrrh. It then proceeds to Egypt, to the Temple of the Sun.”†

Wilkinson says : “ There is reason to believe that the god Rê” (the name of the deity of Heliopolis) “corresponds to the Syrian Baal, a name implying ‘Lord,’ which was given *par excellence* to the sun : and the same idea of peculiar sovereignty vested in that deity may have led the Egyptians to take from Rê the regal title of their kings. Heliopolis, in Syria,

* Wilkinson’s Ancient Egyptians, i. 295.

† Herod. ii. 73.

still retains the name of Baalbek, 'the City of (the Lord, or) the Sun.'**

The wretched village of Matarea now pollutes the borders of the ancient Heliopolis. From the filthy dens of mud, a throng of miserable old men, women, and children sallied forth at our approach, demanding *buckshish* in a manner so determined, that canes were called in requisition to keep them from literally tearing our clothes from our backs.

A short distance from the site of the ancient city, we were conducted into one of the gardens, once celebrated for the balsam they produced, though now no longer cultivated — where we were shown a sycamore-tree, said by tradition to have afforded shade to the Holy Family, at the time of the flight into Egypt. The tree looks old and ugly enough to be at least *a hundred years* of age!

As we leisurely retraced our steps to Cairo, we could not but admire the goodness of Providence, every where displayed. The green crops were hastening on to maturity; the peasants, warmed by a summer sun, blackened the fertile fields; the machinery for irrigating the thirsty plains was all in motion; the palm-groves waved their pendent branches to the breeze; the towering pyramids of Ghizeh lifted their huge forms against the heavens; the everlasting sands of the desert stretched off in gentle undulations; and the bounding Nile, diffusing blessings and bounties on all sides, swept boldly on. It was a rare picture, — a lovely winter scene.

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, Second Series, i. 299.

In winding through the narrow streets, we passed near the "Mad-house," as is denominated the wretched abode of those unfortunate beings of Cairo, whose minds, deprived of chart and compass, and floating giddily upon the sea of uncertainty, are tossed by the tempest of confusion. On expressing a desire to visit the shelter of the truly wretched, we were conducted into the open court of a shattered building, situated in the most dense, dirty, noisy part of the city. On all sides, in small cells looking out upon the court through grated windows, the hapless inmates, covered with vermin, steeped in filth, and almost clotheless, sat chained to their dens like wild beasts caged for public exhibition! Each had a heavy iron ring around his neck, to which a chain was attached and fastened to the wall. These cells were about eight feet in length by four broad, and not of sufficient height to admit one to stand erect. In the rear of every cell there was a small door, through which the miserable objects entered, never to return till death kindly steps in and delivers them from torments more awful, were it possible, than those which haunt the spirits of despair.

The object of the managers of this doleful place is apparently no other than to keep the subjects of their charge out of harm's way, and to prevent their committing acts of violence. The sooner, therefore, they are relieved from this thankless task, the more agreeable it becomes to them. No attention is paid to their diet or condition, with a view to meliorate their forlorn state. Exercise, they have none; the air they

breathe is loaded with impurities ; and they are strangers to repose. Publicly gazed at from day to day by the unfeeling crowd, whose jests and ribaldry often fall like iron upon their wretched souls, they lay writhing in their dens of misery, till the frail fabric of their existence crumbles beneath its appalling burden !

We had completed our observations in this mansion of misery, and turned away in a melancholy mood. We gave the keeper a few piastres, and were about taking leave, when we heard the loud laughter and blustering conversation of two gentlemen who had just entered at the further end of the passage, and with lofty strides were advancing toward us. They were so disguised in the barbarous habiliments of the country, that we could not at first imagine who they were. We were not long, however, in doubt ; for we soon recognised our *noble* friend Sir Danbury Rimtaper, leaning most confidently upon the arm of his clerical companion, the Reverend Mr. Dunderblix. They kept up an animated conversation until they had advanced into the court ; then suddenly raising their glasses to their eyes, and directing them upon the unhappy prisoners in the cells—“ I say, Dunderblix,” observed Sir Danbury, “ this is a demmed extraordinary spectacle, ’pon honour !”

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Excursion to the Pyramids. — Friends by the Wayside. — View from the Summit of the Pyramid of Cheops. — Ancient Tombs. — “Scientific Antiquarians.” — The Sphinx. — Interminable Pay-roll. — Brilliant Cavalcade.

FOR many days, the mighty pyramids of Ghizeh had been the theme of our admiration. Every where, except in threading the gloomy streets of Cairo, these huge monuments rose like lofty mountains conspicuous to the view, overshadowing the plain, and imparting beauty and grandeur to the scene. Day after day, as we gazed upon the massive piles, they swelled upon the vision, augmenting equally in interest and apparent magnitude. At length, having made the necessary arrangements, we set out on an excursion to these wonders of the world.

The morning was delightful; and, accompanied by our esteemed friend the doctor, and Mr. J——, we crossed the Nile in an Arab boat, and directed our course over the fertile plains. On all sides, the fruitful soil, green with the exuberant crops of the year, was dotted with villages, reposing amid groves of spreading palms.

The pyramids, when seen from the city, appeared close at hand. But as we advanced toward them, they seemed to recede from us, and actually assumed a greater distance than when viewed from a point twenty miles below Cairo.

We had not rode far after crossing the river, when, to our surprise, we observed, radiating in direct lines from the surrounding villages, long files of half-clad Arabs, armed with clubs, and running down toward us at the top of their speed. Our little party was the centre to which the advancing columns converged. The doctor was destined to feel the force of the first onset: two men seized his donkey by the bit, and conducted him forward; several others, walking on either side, held his feet in the stirrups; while as many more were bracing him up behind, to prevent (as they said) his tumbling off backward. I immediately found myself in the iron grasp of a dozen lusty, lousy rascals, who held me as in a vice. Mrs. C. was in no less peril. She was hemmed round by a tumultuous throng, who wanted to take her and the animal she rodé, and carry them both in their arms. Mr. J—— was kept steady in his seat by the kind assistance of another dusky crowd; and fresh supplies augmented the number of our attendants at every step.

Each new arrival afforded a theme for contention, which usually resulted in a pitched battle, involving the whole mass in an uproarious squabble. Although they were very bitter among themselves, we discovered that they had no hostile designs upon us. Most of them lacked an eye; many were minus a

finger ; and some had their front teeth knocked out ; yet they were all our *friends*. They had leathern bottles filled with water for us to drink, candle ends to light us through the dark avenues of the pyramids, and clubs to fight our battles and defend us against the assaults of the Bedouins, who, they said, would come from the desert to rob us. They were ready to die in our cause ; wanted to accompany us to the ends of the earth ; and were determined to stand by us, whether we would or not.

Apprehending no danger from robbers, and having provided ourselves with all necessary articles for the excursion, we had little occasion for their proffered attentions. We, however, took two of them into pay, and endeavoured to dismiss the others. They nevertheless all considered themselves fairly enlisted for the day, and refused to leave us ; their unremitting attentions were, however, oppressively irksome. We could endure it no longer.

Selim, anxious to add fresh lustre to his faded laurels, first broke ground in our defence. He valiantly stood forth, corbash in hand, and charged upon the whole body of our new friends, right and left. The Arabs, flying before his fearful advances, led the artless dragoman into serious difficulty. They precipitately leaped a half-filled ditch, into which Selim, in hot pursuit, plunged himself and donkey pell mell. This disaster greatly amused our tormentors, and effectually damped the military ardour of the aspiring dragoman. After a perilous struggle, he extricated himself and quadruped from the mud, and tamely

slunk into the rear of our cavalry, a rueful object of disappointed ambition. We never felt more seriously the inconvenience of officious kindness in our lives; and were in danger of being "*hugged to death*" by our friends!

A kind of running scuffle was kept up between us, until our progress was partially arrested by the stagnant waters of an old canal. Here we were obliged to dismount and be borne over the slough upon men's shoulders. Our friends now fell upon us *en masse*; resolved, at all hazards, to aid us in crossing the gulf. For a moment the tumult and confusion were overwhelming, and the result was poised upon the finger of doubt. They seized upon Mr. J—— with Herculean grasp, raised him high in air, and tried in vain to seat him upon their shoulders and convey him over the water. He kicked most furiously; and so interrupted the equilibrium of their heads, ears, and noses, that they soon relinquished their embrace, and sought the advantages of retreat.

A select circle pitched upon the doctor with the same benevolent design, but they were soon convinced that he, standing six feet three in his stockings, and weighing near three hundred pounds, was no bawble; and, after several ineffectual attempts to raise him from the ground, they resigned him to the arms of those whom we had concluded to patronise. These with some difficulty mounted the doctor upon their shoulders, and staggered across the slough. He was scarcely set down on the opposite side, however, when a crowd of Arabs from the villages near the

pyramids gathered round, and endeavoured to raise him in their arms and carry him back to the spot he had just left. They had nearly poised his ponderous frame upon their shoulders, before he fully comprehended the extent of their beneficence. Perceiving himself again in danger of the peril he had fortunately just escaped in crossing, he cut and thrust right and left with his umbrella, and kept the assailants off, until, being reinforced by the muleteers, he was enabled to establish and maintain his position with comparative ease.

Many ineffectual attempts at kidnapping had been made upon us; but we successfully parried them all, and crossed the slough in safety. Our candle-end and water-bottle friends were as numerous and noisy on this side the canal as those we had left on the other. Although among these were comprised a large number of the fair sex, we had been so intolerably annoyed by the assiduous attentions of our unexpected friends, that we treated the flattering advances of the ladies as ungallantly as we had repulsed the officious aid of the gentlemen.

From the moment we crossed the Nile, until we approached the rocky terrace on which the pyramids stand, they had continued to diminish in apparent size; and now, leaning against the heavens, with no surrounding object by which to compare them, they dwindled in appearance to dimensions far less than when viewed from any other point. Having ascended the terrace, we were at the base of the most huge and hoary monument ever constructed by human

hands. Then we were no longer in doubt of its overwhelming extent and grandeur; though, until we had ascended half way up its Cyclopean sides, and there seen the gigantic masses of rock below, and the towering ledges that still rose above us, we had no adequate idea of their vastness, and the immense labour requisite in their achievement. Layers of stone, which, when seen from the plain, looked like those of brick, we found on examination consisted of blocks of well-hewn rock, from twenty to thirty feet in length, and three to four feet square. Then were we enabled to appreciate the power of this monument, not only to have withstood the ravaging influences of more than forty centuries, which have already discharged their fury upon it—but, to all human appearance, to stand unshaken till time itself shall cease, and this earthy ball crumble into its primitive chaos and confusion. Amazed and awe-struck, we clambered upward until we stood upon the summit of the pyramid of Cheops. This astonishing pile rises from a base or area equal in extent to about eleven English acres, terminating at an altitude of four hundred and seventy-four feet, with a square surface, measuring thirty feet on either side. Each side at the base measures about seven hundred and thirty-two feet. This, however, does not include the coating or outward tier of stone which once covered it. The total height of the pyramid, if entire, with the casing, would be about five hundred and two feet.* We were thirty minutes in ascending it, but accomplished the task without

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 323.

difficulty. We required none of that lifting, tugging, and pulling which the learned "ex-member of Parliament"* informed us he and his noble friends resorted to in their miraculous ascent, at the time of the "ex-member's" celebrated visit to the pyramids.

From the summit, the view on all sides was impressively grand. The hoary sands of Africa stretched toward the west, till their arid surface met the heavens. A long line of pyramids, standing upon the borders of Egypt, reached upward far beyond the palm-shadowed site of Memphis. The eastern horizon was fringed by Arabia's barren mountains, whose bleak and flinty sides are pierced with ancient sepulchres. At their base, the metropolis of Egypt, crowned with lofty, swelling domes, reposed amid palm-groves and fruitful fields. The rushing Nile meandered through the vale, glistening like shields of silver, fringed with living green. Egypt's expanding plains, sprinkled with towns, leaped onward in the view, till the heavens kissed the soil, and closed on either hand the range of vision. Than was here exhibited, it would be impossible to present a contrast more impressive. The wind whistled along the desert waste like ceaseless murmurs of the ocean waves upon a barren beach. On one hand, nature revelled in beauty and fertility, and nothing could be more lovely to the sight. On the other, far as vision's utmost bounds, all was cheerless, desolate, wretched.

Glancing our eyes hastily over the names of the "immortals," or those travellers who have made the

* J. S. Buckingham.

pyramids, temples, tombs, and other works of eastern art, famous for their chisellings and spoil, — we commenced the descent, which is easy and safe.

The entrance to the pyramid is on the north side, nearly in the centre, and about forty-five feet above the base. It is three feet three inches square, and is lined with polished granite. Preceded by an Arab bearing a lighted torch, we entered this passage, and descended at an angle of twenty-seven degrees to the distance of one hundred feet. Here we found an unfinished chamber; and the passage from this point, ascending at about the same angle as the descent from the entrance, conducted us to what is called the "Great Gallery." On the right of the entrance to this gallery, a well opens to an unknown depth. Here a horizontal passage conducts the explorer to what is termed the "Queen's Chamber." The "Great Gallery," ascending at the same angle as the passage, leads to a small vestibule which opens into a spacious apartment, cased on all sides with polished blocks of granite. In this room, which is called the "King's Chamber," there is a highly-polished granite sarcophagus, seven feet four inches long and three feet square. Besides the sarcophagus, there was little in this apartment to detain us. The air was hot and impure; and the Arabs who rushed in after us, kicked up the dust so much, that respiration became difficult. The bats too had taken the alarm, and were revolving round our lights in a manner that threatened their total extinction. We therefore deemed it

advisable to feel our way back through the passages, and emerge once more into day.

The well at the bottom of the "Great Gallery" is sunk through the solid rock; and it is supposed to have connexion with a passage at the bottom, leading up thence to the entrance of the pyramid. Wilkinson* thinks that the workmen, after closing the passage which conducts from the first chamber to the "Great Gallery," must have descended the well, and made their final egress through this subterranean passage, which they also closed after them. Champollion† says, the well is known to extend to the depth of two hundred feet, and that it has been explored to a point forty feet below the level of the Nile.

Herodotus‡ says that the water of the Nile was conducted into this pyramid and surrounded an island, where the body of Cheops, its founder, was deposited. If that were the case, the well must have reached down to the channel for the admission of the Nile. But Wilkinson§ discredits this assertion; and Pliny, who he thinks was not easily led away by credulity and want of judgment, observes that the Nile is much lower than the bottom of the well. Champollion represents the descent as being neither difficult nor dangerous, there being small niches cut in the sides, on which to rest the feet and hands.

The present passage to the interior of the pyramids was opened by Belzoni, in 1816; though he found abundant evidence there to show that he was

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 324.

† "Egypte Ancienne," 282.

‡ Herod. ii. 124-127.

§ Wilkinson's Thebes, 328: note.

not the first discoverer. A forced passage was effected in the year 820, by the Calif Mamoon, "and a statue, resembling a man, was found in the sarcophagus; and in the statue was a body, with a breast-plate of gold and jewels, and characters written with a pen, which no one understood."*

Mr. Stephens, speaking of the sarcophagus, says: "It is exactly the size of the orifice which forms the entrance of the pyramid, and could not have been conveyed to its place by any of the known passages."† Wilkinson, however, says the sarcophagus is three inches smaller than the entrance; and thinks it must have been "placed there before the roof was added, or introduced by means of the screw."‡

It is conjectured that many other chambers, yet undiscovered, are contained in this pyramid; for the structure, after making due allowance for partition-walls and secret avenues, is sufficiently large to contain thousands of chambers, of the dimensions of those already opened. The veil of mystery hangs over the history of this stupendous fabric; and there is much disparity of opinion among authors who have written upon the subject, in regard both to its age, and the purpose for which it was constructed. Since there is no authenticated record to indicate either, all that is not apparent resolves itself into mere conjecture, unsupported by a single fact. That it was originally designed for the tomb of its founder, would seem to be the most natural conclusion; and the sarcopha-

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 325: note.

† Incidents of Travel in Egypt, &c., i. 48.

‡ Wilkinson's Thebes, 224: note.

gus in the "King's Chamber" appears to me strong evidence in support of this conjecture.

Some suppose that the pyramids were Joseph's granaries; others think they were erected for astronomical purposes. It has been conjectured by some that they were anciently used as temples of idolatrous worship. Pliny thought they were built by vain monarchs for ostentatious show, and to give employment to an idle population. Voltaire justly considered the construction of them as a proof of the slavery of the Egyptians; for Herodotus informs us that Cheops, who succeeded the mild and paternal prince Rhampsinitus, under whose reign "Egypt was not only remarkable for its abundance, but for its excellent laws, degenerated into the extremest profligacy. He barred the temples, and forbade the Egyptians to offer sacrifices; and proceeded next to make them labour severely for himself."* Some were employed in the quarries of Arabia, extracting the stones for the great pyramid. Others dragged them to the Nile, and put them on board the transports of those who conveyed them thence to the mountains of Libya; and in this service alone one hundred thousand men were employed twenty years!

"Ten years were consumed in forming the road over which the stones were to be drawn; a work in my estimation," says Herodotus, "of no less difficulty than the pyramid itself." He also mentions the machinery by means of which the massive blocks were elevated; the style in which the pyramid was fin-

* Herod. ii. 124.

ished; and that “upon the outside were inscribed the various sums of money expended in the progress of the work, for *radishes, onions, and garlic* consumed by the artificers. This,” he continues, “as I well remember my interpreter informed me, amounted to no less a sum than one thousand six hundred talents.”*

Herodotus also informs us that “Cheops, having exhausted his wealth, was so flagitious that he prostituted his daughter, commanding her to make the most of her person.” And, although he was not informed what sums she procured by the prostitution of her charms; yet, “it is reported,” he remarks, that from this source, “the middle of the three pyramids, fronting the larger one, was constructed, the elevation of which on each side is one hundred and fifty feet.”† According to the same author, Cheops reigned fifty years; and his brother Cephren, who succeeded him on the throne, pursued a similar course — built a pyramid, and reigned fifty-six years. “Thus for the space of one hundred and six years, the Egyptians were exposed to every species of oppression; not having, all this period, permission to worship in their temples.”‡

Diodorus§ relates that Chemmis the Memphite, the same king whom Herodotus calls Cheops,|| “reigned fifty years, and built the greatest of the pyramids, accounted among the seven wonders of the world.” He says: “Though it be a thousand years since it was built (or as some say about three thousand and

* Herod. ii. 125. Wilkinson’s Ancient Egyptians, i. 126. Dioid. i. 66.

† Herod. ii. 126.

‡ Ibid. ii. 128.

§ Dioid. i. 65.

|| Wilkinson’s Ancient Egyptians, i. 24.

four hundred), yet the stones are as firmly jointed, and the whole building as entire and without the least decay, as they were at the first." He confirms the account of Herodotus, of the stone's being taken from the Arabian mountains, though he says the number of men employed upon the work was "three hundred and sixty thousand, and the whole was scarcely completed in twenty years."* He also says: "Although the kings designed these two pyramids (Cheops and Cephren) for their sepulchres, yet it happened that neither of them was there buried. For the people being incensed at them by reason of the toil and labour they were put to, and the cruelty of the kings, threatened to drag their carcasses out of their graves, and pull them by piece-meal, and cast them to the dogs; and therefore both of them upon their death-beds commanded their servants to bury them in some obscure place."†

"Instead of useful works, like nature, great,
Enormous, cruel wonders crushed the land,
And round a tyrant's tomb, who none deserved,
For one vile carcass perished countless lives."

Wilkinson, after pronouncing the pyramids of Ghizeh the oldest monuments in the world, observes that "the absence of hieroglyphics and of every trace of sculpture precludes the possibility of ascertaining the exact period of their erection, or the names of their founders."‡ He thinks, however, that from all that can be collected in reference to their history, they were erected by Suphis and Sensuphis, two brothers,

* Diod. i. 66. † Ibid. ‡ Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, i. 19.

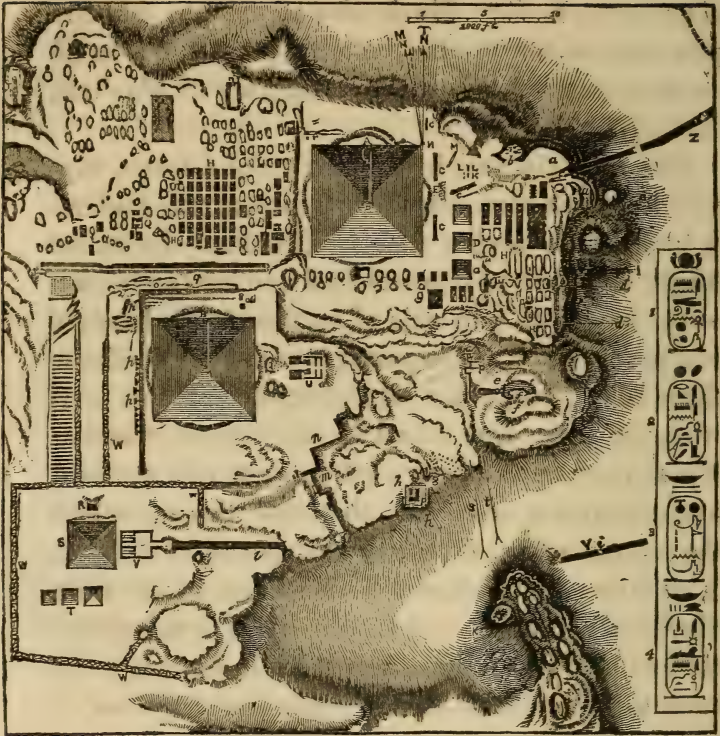
who were successively upon the throne of Egypt about 2120 B. C.* He is also of opinion that Suthis was the fourth king before Apappus, whom he supposes to have been the cotemporary of Abraham, B. C. 1920.

The pyramid next in size to that of Cheops, supposed to have been reared by Cephren, was evidently built in an inferior style to the first. Its actual height is said to be four hundred and thirty-nine feet — the length of each side of its base is six hundred and ninety feet.† The passages in this are similar to those in the first, and a sarcophagus, sunk to a level with the floor, was found in the largest chamber. There were originally two entrances to this pyramid, one of which is unopened; the other, through which the interior is now explored, was opened by Belzoni. This is four feet high, and three feet six inches wide. He found the chamber of the sarcophagus to be forty-six feet in length, sixteen feet three inches wide, and twenty-three feet six inches high; *and hewn out of the solid rock from the floor to the roof.*

This fact favours the idea advanced by Bruce, that the great pyramids of Ghizeh were formed out of immense isolated rocks, which stood upon the spot. The fact too of the well in the pyramid of Cheops, commencing at an elevation of some forty or fifty feet above the base of the structure, being sunk through the *solid rock*, also favours this theory.

Bruce says: "Whoever will take the pains to remove the sand on the south side, will also find the

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, iii. 150. † Wilkinson's Thebes, 330.



PLAN OF THE PYRAMIDS OF GHIZEH.

A, entrance to the pyramid of Cheops.

B, entrance to the pyramid of Cephren.

C C, long pits.

D, pyramid of Cheops' daughter.

H and I, ancient tombs.

P, site of ancient tomb, supposed to have been the temple of Osiris.

Q, tombs.

R, pit closed with stone.

S, pyramid of Mycerinus.

T, small pyramids.

U V, ruins of ancient buildings.

W W W, fragments of stone wall.

Y, southern causeway.

Z, northern do.

a, ancient tombs.

d d, tombs in the rock.

e, the sphinx.

f g, mummy pits.

i, doorway of the causeway.

k, grotto.

l, inclined causeway.

m m, ancient tombs.

solid rock hewn into steps. And in the roof of the large chamber, where the sarcophagus stands, as also in the top of the roof of the gallery, you see large fragments of the rock, affording an unanswerable proof that these pyramids were once huge rocks, standing where they now are; that some of them, the most proper from their form, were chosen for the body of the pyramid, and the others hewn down to serve for the superstructure, and the exterior parts of them.”*

The third pyramid, supposed to have been built by Mycerinus, son of Cheops, who ascended the throne after the death of Cephren, has not yet been opened. It is much smaller than those already described, and more elegant in its external surface—having been coated from the summit to the base with red granite. Much of the exterior coating of this pyramid is still entire. Its form is somewhat different from the larger ones; the angle of its sides being much more acute.

In addition to those mentioned above, there were many other pyramids in the vicinity, which, could they be seen any where else, might justly excite admiration. But there, the all-absorbing interest of the more mighty structures of Cheops and Cephren cast surrounding objects into comparative insignificance.

From the summit of the great pyramid, those of Sakhara and Dashour were distinctly seen. These are much smaller than those of Ghizeh, though they are striking remains of a powerful nation, whose de-

* Bruce's Travels in Egypt and Abyssinia, vol. i.

parted greatness still lingers amid the ruined fragments of her early achievements. The pyramids of Sakhara, like those of Ghizeh, are surrounded by tombs, which have all been violated by the "scientific antiquarians" from England and other parts of Europe.

Dr. Robinson says of his visit to Sakhara: "Pits leading to the chambers of death have been opened in all directions; and the ground is every where strewn with the bones and cerements of mummies. Such a field of dead men's bones, I have nowhere else seen."* He is of opinion that the whole distance along the edge of the Libyan desert, from the pyramids of Ghizeh to those of Dashour, formed the great Necropolis of the city of Memphis. The Heliopolitans probably deposited their dead in the tombs about the pyramids of Ghizeh, since none have been discovered about the ancient city of On.

The numerous tombs adjacent to the pyramids are supposed to have been excavated six hundred years after those at Thebes.† The paintings upon the walls, representing the wine-press, dancing, festive groups, trades, boats, and agricultural scenes, are still preserved with much freshness; though greatly inferior in execution to those in the sepulchral chambers of the Theban Necropolis.

Wilkinson mentions some tombs to the north of the pyramids, where he saw the names of some very old kings, having merely the title of priests. "In-

* Dr. Robinson's *Biblical Researches in Palestine, &c.*, i. 38.

† Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, iii. 285.

deed," says he, "I believe these sculptures and buildings to be the oldest in Egypt, not excepting the catacombs of Beni-Hassan."*

We explored their vacant chambers until we became fatigued and hungry ; and, after lunching in one of them, we came down to the sphinx, a relic of antiquity, which, though crouched beneath the huge pyramids, and nearly enveloped in sand, cannot be witnessed but with admiration and surprise. This extraordinary monument, hewn out of the ledge on which it rests, is one hundred and twenty feet in length ; and, although in a cumbent posture, its head is elevated sixty feet above its legs, which are thrust out fifty feet in advance of the body. The head rises thirty feet above the top of the back. It measures thirty-three feet across the breast.

Combined with the colossal body of a lion, the sphinx has the head, neck, and breast of a beautiful woman ; a figure which is said to have been emblematical of intellectual power and physical strength.† Though the nose, eyes, and one ear have felt the rude touch of the spoiler, the expression is still benign, placid, and impressive to a degree that I have rarely seen produced by the sculptor's art :

Say, canst thou tell me what and why thou art,
 Fair Sphinx, that e'en in all thy ruin smiles
 So sweetly o'er these drifting sands ? What part
 Hadst thou in Egypt's golden days, when files
 Of gorgeous priests, in all their mystic wiles,
 Stood, knelt, or bowed before thy bruised face,
 And worshipped ? Then, thou wert young, and the Nile's
 Fair wonder ; for, thy beauty, grandeur, grace,
 Still cling around thee, and adorn this desert place !

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 332.

† Ibid. 332 : note.

At our departure from the sphinx, the Arabs, who had annoyed us all day, gathered round, clamorous for their wages, crying *buckshish!* with the voice of Stentor. We felt rather pacific, and thought the easier way to escape their importunity was to give each a few paras, and thus satisfying their imperious demands, take a tranquil leave of all hands. We soon found, however, that the pay-roll was likely to be as interminable as a circle. One's claims were no sooner liquidated, than, slipping behind his companions, he emerged again from a different point, and, while holding what he had already obtained in one hand, he would thrust out the other, vehemently demanding a fresh donation. Add to this rather discouraging circumstance, the inmates of a cluster of mud huts near at hand, perceiving what was going forward, came up in breathless haste, all as solicitous to share the distributions of the spoil as those who had harassed us in our perambulations about the pyramids. Of the two, these were the more entitled to our bounty. But there was too fierce a run for any bank to stand it long; and we found ourselves "under the disagreeable necessity of suspending payment."

About half way down the cliffs, we found an Arab dwelling in a tomb. He was "mine host" of the pyramids. He actually kept a public house. In front of his sepulchral abode, two tents were pitched, and the English colours were flying from their tops. The steam and savoury smell ascending from the pots and pans over the blazing fire, indicated the quality of the guests who were to honour this spectre of the

tombs at dinner ; and the profusion of jugs and bottles that strewed the sand promised a jovial cheer.

Casting our eyes down upon the plain, we descried a long, confused column of Franks and Arabs, slowly advancing toward us. It comprised the Builderdashes, the Reverend Mr. Dunderblix, Doctor O'Squeebey, and about sixty Arabs, pressing forward to see the sun set, from the top of the pyramids. The Rimtapers would have been of the party, but they had preceded their friends a few days, and dated their last letters for England from the summit of the great pyramid ; whence, as Sir Danbury said, — “ they saw the sun rise and set in a demmed extraordinary manner, 'pon honour.”

Mrs. Builderdash was swung between two donkeys. Two long poles being lashed at each end on either side of the animals, supported a chair in the centre, upon which Mrs. Builderdash sat, bound and strapped to her seat in a style which gave her somewhat the resemblance of a fly in a cobweb. A large umbrella, fastened to the chair with cords, expanded over her head. This singular vehicle swung to and fro like the slack wire of a rope-dancer ; and the ardent bobbing up and down of her ladyship, occasioned by the unsteady gait of the donkeys, affected her nerves most seriously. She looked pale and dejected ; and held a Cologne-bottle in one hand, and a scent-box in the other.

Colonel Builderdash, dressed in sky-blue, trimmed with red, with a gun swung across his back, supported on either hand by armed janizaries, rode near his

lady, evidently somewhat alarmed for her safety. Miss Builderdash was sustained on the right by Doctor O'Squeebey; and the Reverend Mr. Dunderblix, astride a donkey, with his feet dangling on the ground, brought up the rear. He had a sort of Vulcanic aspect, and he brandished a long weapon in his hand, resembling the trident of Neptune. The natives, who circled at a respectful distance round, thought him no common *howágee*; and I must confess his appearance did wonders toward giving the procession a classical termination!—



CHAPTER XXXVII.

The Nile, and its Annual Inundation. — Sacrifice and Festivals in honour of the God of the Nile. — Nileometers and Criers of the Nile. — Dikes and Canals. — The Nile diverted from its original Channel, and Memphis founded upon its Bed. — Apis, the Sacred Bull of Memphis. — Splendour of the Ancient City of Memphis. — Its Ruin, and the “Scientific Antiquarians.”

THE Nile has many interesting peculiarities ; and it is not a little remarkable that this majestic river sweeps on with a broad, deep volume, diffusing its blessings through the whole extent of Egypt, without a single tributary stream. Herodotus* says, “No stream or fountain enters into the Nile.”

“Where’er the Lion sheds his fires around,
 And Cancer burns Syene’s parching ground,
 Then at the prayer of nations comes the Nile,
 And kindly tempers up the mouldering soil ;
 Nor from the plains the covering god retreats,
 Till the rude fervour of the skies abates, —
 Till Phœbus into milder autumn fades,
 And Meroë projects her lengthening shades ;
 Nor let inquiring skeptics ask the cause —
 ’Tis Jove’s commands, and these are nature’s laws.”

* Herod. ii. 50.

The inundation was a phenomenon which puzzled the wise men of Egypt, and baffled the subtlety of the philosophers of Greece. They were not able to agree in their solution of the question. Some superstitiously believed that it was occasioned by the annual sacrifice of a young lady which they made to the deity of the river. She was splendidly adorned, and with much ceremony was cast into the stream. This custom having been abolished by Amrou after the Saracen conquest, and the Nile not evincing any signs of an increase of its waters until nearly three months after the usual time of the inundation, the Egyptians became alarmed in the belief that a famine would be the consequence ; and their superstition led them to attribute this calamity to the neglect on the part of the government to make the usual barbarous sacrifice. The Arab general wrote to the commander of the faithful for advice. Omar returned an answer approving the conduct of his vassal, and enclosed a note to the following effect, which he commanded him to cast into the Nile : “ From 'Abd allah 'Omar, Prince of the Faithful, to the Nile of Egypt : If thou flow of thine own accord, flow not ; but if it be God, the One, the Mighty, who causeth thee to flow, we implore God, the One, the Mighty, to make thee flow.” This command having been obeyed, the Nile rose sixteen cubits in the following night !*

A superstition still pervades the minds of the Egyptians in regard to the sacrifice ; and, to this day, a column of earth is annually raised upon the banks

* Lane's *Modern Egyptians*, ii. 263, 264.

of the canal, near the island of Rhoda, which is called the "bride." This is washed away; and a boat, gaudily decorated, mounted with guns, illuminated with lamps, having a silk awning over the cabin, and pennants streaming from its masts, is displayed in the river near the entrance of the canal, the day before the cutting of the dam, to represent the magnificent vessel in which the Egyptians used to convey the virgin they threw into the Nile.*

Some thought the inundation was occasioned by the north-east winds. These were supposed to blow with such effect as to choke the mouths of the Nile, and cause the water to overflow the country.† Another opinion was that "the Nile has these qualities, as flowing from the ocean, which entirely surrounds the earth."‡ Others attributed this extraordinary occurrence to the dissolving snows on the Ethiopian mountains.§ Herodotus, after enumerating several suggestions of others, gives what he supposed to be the true cause of the inundation, which appears to be about as rational as the reasons adduced by some politicians of our generation for the rise and fall of the speculators. "It is my opinion," says he, "that the Nile overflows in the summer season, because in the winter the sun, driven by the storms from his usual course, ascends into the higher regions of the air above Libya."|| It is true, he gives what he terms an explanation of his theory; but, like a majority of Congressional speeches, "his going more at length

* Lane's *Modern Egyptians*, ii. 164.

† Herod. ii. 24: note 43.

‡ Herod. ii. 21.

§ Herod. ii. 22.

|| *Ibid.* ii. 24.

into the argument"* tends rather to shroud and perplex what before was clear and self-evident, than to throw new light upon the subject.

The gods of Egypt had probably about as much influence over the Nile as they had in 1835 over Salt river and Sam Patch ; and their agency is as potent now as it was in the days of Joseph and Jacob, — or even at the time the "ex-member of Parliament"† was in Egypt. Very little mystery hangs over the Nile's inundation. It is all accounted for by natural causes. Diodorus, who derided the fabulous stories of the Egyptians and Greeks about the sources of the Nile, and the causes of its annual inundations, says : "In the mountainous parts of Ethiopia, there are yearly continual rains from the summer solstice to the equinox in autumn ; and therefore there is just cause for the Nile to be low in winter, which then flows only from its own natural spring-heads, and to overflow in summer through the abundance of rains."‡ Pococke ascribes the inundation to the rains in Ethiopia ; though he thinks that the north winds, which begin to blow the latter end of May, drive the clouds, formed by the vapours of the Mediterranean, against the mountains of Ethiopia, when they condense and fall down in violent rains. "At this time," he observes, "not only men from their reasons, but the wild beasts from a sort of instinct, leave the mountains."

There can be no doubt that the annual rains of Ethiopia have ever been the real cause of the over-

* Herod. ii. 25.

† J. S. Buckingham.

‡ Diod. i. 47.

flow of the Nile; and it is not improbable that the waters are sometimes considerably increased in depth by the prevalence of the north winds, which continue with much steadiness at that season of the year. Yet, so mysterious an incidence was the inundation esteemed by the ancients, that they religiously believed that, if from any accident they failed to celebrate the "Niloa Festival" at the proper time, and with becoming pomp, the tutelary deity of the river, in whose honour this fête was given, would become incensed, and the Nile would refuse to overflow the land. This, therefore, was one of the most remarkable of all their festivals. The towns and villages were crowded by men and women assembled from all parts of the country. "Grand festivities were proclaimed, and all the enjoyments of the table were combined with the solemnity of a sacred festival. Music, the dance, and appropriate hymns marked the respect they felt for the deity; and a wooden statue of the river-god was carried by the priests through the villages in solemn procession, that all might appear to be honoured by his presence and aid, while invoking the blessings he was about to confer."*

Singular as it may appear, the Egyptians of the nineteenth century are as deep in the fog of superstition on this subject as were their ancestors two thousand years before the Christian era. On the eve of the 17th of June, they believe that a miraculous drop falls into the Nile, and causes it to rise. This is called the "Night of the Drop;" and astrologers

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, Second Series, ii. 292.

calculate the moment with much precision when this supernatural "drop" is to descend. The Egyptians in all parts of the country assemble on the banks of the river, and there pass the "Night of the Drop."

The women on this occasion observe the singular custom of placing upon the terraces of their houses a small lump of dough for each person in the family. If, upon a careful examination of these lumps the next morning, any of them are found cracked, they infer that those persons for whom they were intended are destined to enjoy long life ; those, however, whose lumps remain entire, are thereby reminded of their speedy dissolution. This is also a test with some for determining the height of the inundation the ensuing season.*

The most brilliant fête of the Egyptians is celebrated on the night before cutting the dam of the canal to conduct the water of the inundation to the metropolis. The inhabitants repair in crowds to the island of Rhoda, the banks of the canal, and of the river, and there pass the night with music, songs, dancing, and story-telling, amid the roar of cannon and the glare of rockets which are continually blazing through the heavens. Thousands are sailing up and down the Nile in illuminated boats, rejoicing the air with their uproarious rejoicings.

At the break of day, the cutting of the dam is commenced. An hour after sunrise, the governor of Cairo, attended by other great officers of state, arrives and alights at a large tent in front of the dam.

* Lane's Modern Egyptians, ii. 256.

The ckadee is also present. He draws up a document testifying to the fact of the Nile's having attained a sufficient height to justify the opening of the canal, and of its having been accomplished. This instrument, being signed and sealed, is despatched with all haste to the Grand Seignior at Constantino-ple. The governor throws purses of gold to the workmen; the water rushes into the canal, bearing upon its troubled bosom numerous boats filled with happy beings rejoicing, into the city. The lake of Ezbekeeyeh, within the walls of Cairo, being filled with water, the metropolitans pass the night upon its borders, in bathing; and other amusements. The women, who elsewhere are superstitiously exact in concealing their faces from the sight of men, "expose their persons to the passengers and idlers on the banks, in a surprising manner."*

The Egyptians have always looked upon their inestimable river with extreme veneration. To it the country is indebted for all its fertility. Indeed, Egypt in the fullest sense is the "*gift* of the Nile." Therefore, when they have a "full Nile," the country re-sounds with rejoicings: the people are then happy in the prospect of an abundant harvest.

Herodotus informs us that Pheron hurled a javelin into the Nile when "it was at its extreme height of eighteen cubits," and was immediately deprived of his sight, and remained blind for the space of ten years.† This, and the manner in which his sight was afterward restored, were among the tales related

* Lane's Modern Egyptians, ii. 268.

† Herod. ii. 111.

by the priests. One is quite absurd, and the other is perfectly ridiculous. That this Pharaoh was blind for a season, and subsequently received his sight, is highly probable; but that the cause of his blindness was that ascribed to it, and the cure effected by the singular remedy* related by Herodotus, it would require the credulity and dulness of an Egyptian to believe.

In accordance with the custom of the ancients, the height of the Nile during the increase of its waters is daily proclaimed by public criers; and the Nileometers, although the Pacha possesses almost the entire soil of the country, now subserve the important ends for which they were originally constructed. An old law exempting the people from paying the land-tax, unless the river rises to the height of sixteen cubits, is so far respected, that the criers of the Nile, under the sanction of government, daily proclaim the increase of the waters.†

Nileometers were very early established,‡ and it was unlawful for the inhabitants to measure the height of the inundation; consequently the Nileometers being strictly in the hands of the public authorities, the river rarely failed to reach the tax-sanctioning height of sixteen cubits.

About the middle of June, a gradual rise in the Nile is perceptible at Cairo; though at the cataracts, the banks denote an increased fulness two or three weeks earlier. At this time the water becomes more turbid, and is changed from a state of comparative clearness

* Herod. ii. 111.

† Lane's *Modern Egyptians*, ii. 259.

‡ Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, Second Series, i. 11.

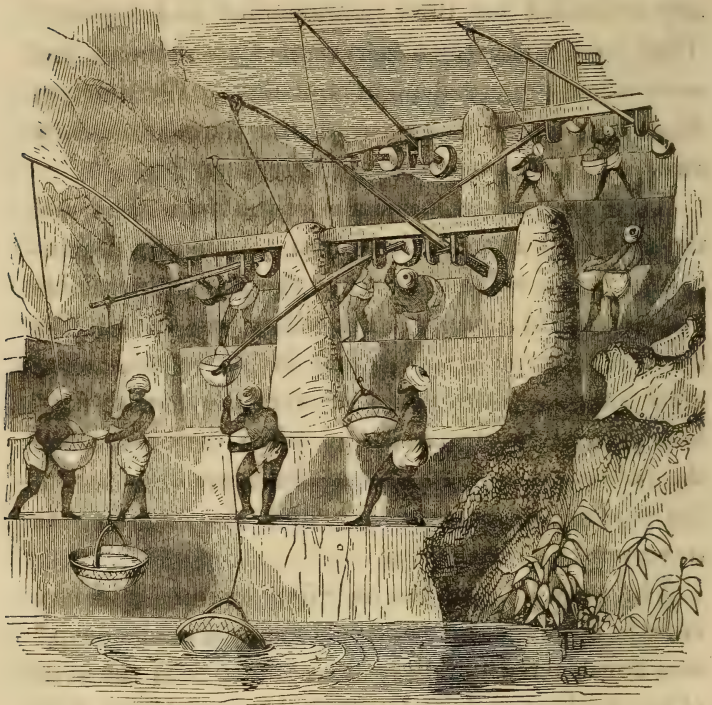
to a red dirty hue. It then assumes a greenish appearance; and while it retains this colour, it is considered unwholesome. Anciently, the banks being generally full about the first of August, the canals were opened and the water covered the plains.* The canals and dikes were then considered of so much importance, that "large sums of money were annually expended for their maintenance and repairs." They were under the supervision of government, and were strictly guarded night and day. The ancient dikes having all disappeared, the inundation now sweeps unrestrained where it listeth.

To the fertilizing influences of the inundation, and the judicious mode of irrigation adopted by the ancients, Egypt was indebted for the almost incredible productions of its soil. The dikes and canals, like those of Holland at the present day, were considered great national works; they received the most scrupulous care of government, and while they restrained the redundant waters, they at the same time served the purpose of roads, over which the country was traversed in all directions.

The great lake of Mæris, "four hundred and fifty miles in circumference and two hundred cubits deep," was constructed to relieve the country from the evils of too copious an inundation, and to supply the deficiencies of a partial overflowing of the plains. "For six months," says Herodotus, "the lake empties itself into the Nile, and the remaining six the Nile supplies the lake. It is entirely the product of human indus-

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, Second Series, i. 101.

try, which indeed the work testifies : for in its centre may be seen two pyramids, each of which is two hundred cubits above, and as many beneath the water. Upon the summit of each is a colossal statue of marble, in a sitting attitude.”* The pyramids have disappeared, and the lake is now scarcely forty leagues in circumference.



RAISING WATER FROM THE NILE.

The horizontal wheel now in use in Lower Egypt for raising the water from the Nile, was not introduced till after the country was subjugated by the Persians. The simple pole and bucket, or *shadóof*,

* Herod. ii. 149.

of the modern Egyptians swung upon the banks of the Nile forty centuries ago;* and the Fellahs have a tradition that this contrivance has descended to them from their Pharaonic predecessors.† The Persian wheel, as it is called, was formerly much more generally in use than it is at present. In consequence of a tax of fifteen dollars per annum which is laid upon each, its use is nearly abandoned in Upper Egypt, and the primitive *shadóof* adopted in its stead. The appearance of the labourers at the *shadóof*, who toil from sunrise till sunset for four or five cents each, is animated and picturesque. The accompanying cut is an illustration of these scenes on the banks of the Nile.

We are assured‡ that Menes, the founder of Memphis, diverted the course of the Nile, and reared the city upon its ancient bed. Until then, the river “flowed along the sandy mountain on the side of Libya.”§ At some distance to the south of the *supposed* site of Memphis, it sweeps to the right, flowing toward the Arabian mountains; after which it takes a more direct course through the central part of the valley. Present appearances, therefore, corroborate the statement of Herodotus, who also informs us that “under the dominion of the Persians, the artificial channel was annually repaired. If the river were here to break its banks, the whole town of Memphis would be greatly endangered.”|| Wilkinson is of opinion that the Nile was turned out of its original chan-

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, ii. 137-139.

† Ibid. i. 53.

‡ Herod. ii. 99.

§ Ibid.

|| Herod. ii. 99.

nel by Menes, who he says "was the reputed founder of Thebes and Memphis," and is allowed by universal consent to have been the first sovereign of the country. He also says: "Judging from the great height of several mounds still existing near Memphis, that city could not have been overwhelmed at any period by the rising of the Nile."* We are however informed, that among the mighty achievements of Sesostris, he "raised many mounds and banks of earth to which he removed *all* the cities that lay low in the plain, that both man and beast might be secure at the time of the inundation."† As this monarch, who was styled "king of kings and lord of lords," after conquering Libya, Ethiopia, Scythia, all Asia, and Thrace, returned home victorious, with the annual tribute of the vanquished nations pouring into his coffers, set about improving his kingdom; and "cut deep dikes from the river all along as far as from Memphis to the sea; and adorned all the temples of Egypt with rich presents;"‡ it is most probable that he did not wholly neglect the capital; and that Memphis was raised with "all the cities that lay low in the plain," and secured from the ravages of the waters. Though twenty generations before the birth of Sesostris, at the time Memphis was built, and many generations after it became the capital—"it might have been greatly endangered by the river's breaking its banks."

Diodorus says that Menes was the first king of Egypt; and that the course of the Nile was changed,

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 340, 341: Ancient Egyptians, i. 41.

† Diod. i. 61.

‡ Diod. i. 60, 61.

and the city of Memphis built in its former channel. But he also remarks* that Thebes was founded by Busiris, who succeeded to the throne some sixty generations after Menes ; and that Memphis was founded by Uchoreus,† eight generations after the building of Thebes, and “ became the most famous city of Egypt.” It stood at the head of the several branches of the Nile, forming the Delta, and commanded all the shipping on the river.‡ It was one hundred and fifty furlongs in circuit, with a lofty rampart on the south side, serving as a defence against the waters of the Nile (which it effectually turned into a new channel), and as a bulwark against the approach of an enemy by land. A deep fosse encircled the rampart, into which the waters entered, fortifying the city after the manner observed in similar works, through all succeeding ages. This city, so commodiously situated and so strongly fortified, became at once the residence of the court. Thebes, deprived of this advantage, began from that period to decline. Memphis continued to be the royal residence, and increased in splendour and riches, till Alexandria finally eclipsed its glory, robbed it of the royal favour, and left it to sink into total decay and ruin.

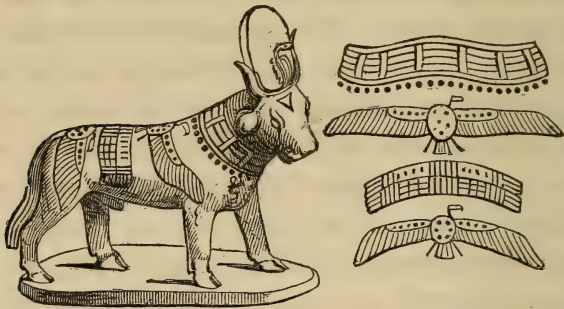
Memphis was not only “ the most famous city of Egypt,” but it was there that divine honours were paid to Apis. “ Apis,” says Herodotus, “ is the calf of a cow which can have no more young On this occasion the cow is struck with lightning, from which she conceives and brings forth Apis The

* Diod. i. 51.

† Ibid. i. 55.

‡ Ibid.

skin of Apis is black, but on his forehead is a white star of triangular form. It has the figure of an eagle on the back, the tail is divided, and under the tongue it has an insect like a beetle."* This sacred bull was worshipped as a real god, for the Egyptians believed that the soul of Osiris had taken up its abode in that animal.†



APIS AND HIS ORNAMENTS.

The worship of Apis was conducted with great pomp. He had a temple, and festivals in his honour were celebrated for many days together.‡ During these fêtes, the people assembled at Memphis; and Apis was conducted through the streets in solemn procession, greeted by the citizens, who came forth to welcome him. Children crowded about the bull, for it was believed that those of them who smelt his breath were thereby inspired with the gift of prophecy.§ Great attention was paid to his food, and he was not permitted to drink of the Nile, lest its fattening qualities should make this deity too corpulent.

* Herod. iii. 28.

† Diod. i. 86.

‡ Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, Second Series, i. 351.

§ Ibid. i. 357.

As soon as his time was accomplished, as prescribed in the sacred book (which was twenty-five years), he was led to the fountain of the priests, and there drowned with much ceremony. His body was embalmed, and his funeral celebrated with great magnificence. This having been accomplished, the priests, with doleful lamentation, sought another bull to take his place. Detailed instructions were laid down in the sacred books for their guidance in this important research.* When the successor of the defunct deity arrived in Memphis, the event was celebrated with festive rejoicings, equalled only in enthusiasm by the splendour of their grief for the death of his predecessor.

Whenever Apis died a natural death, his obsequies were consecrated upon a scale of extravagance that often ruined those who had charge of him. On one occasion, besides vast sums otherwise provided, fifty talents (something over forty-three thousand dollars) were borrowed to defray the expense of burying the bull.†

However great were the honours and devout the homage paid to this animal by the Egyptians, he was held by the Persian rulers of Egypt in very slight regard. Cambyses, returning from a disastrous expedition against the Ethiopians, vexed at the loss of an army of fifty thousand men which was overwhelmed in the sands of the desert, and finding the Egyptians in their best attire, the priests decked in their richest robes, all rejoicing, and celebrating the festival of

* Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, Second Series, i. 352. † *Diod.* i. 85.

Apis, he put the magistrates of Memphis to death, scourged the priests, and stabbed the sacred bull with his dagger.* About two centuries after this barbarity, Ochus, the last but two of the Persian tyrants who reigned in Egypt, killed the sacred Apis, and served him up at a banquet †

Diodorus says: "There are two sacred bulls especially, the one called Apis, and the other Mnevis, that are consecrated to Osiris, and reputed as gods by all the Egyptians." ‡ He also assures us that Osiris and Isis were both buried in the grove of Vulcan at Memphis. But, as the learned world have greatly differed in regard to this, and the colour, spots, marks, and exact form of the tongue and tail of Apis (as they seldom fail to write upon all important matters), I leave the whole subject, with much confidence, in their hands, and beg to refer the curious reader, for their opinions and other particulars of this Egyptian god, to Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, § where he will find many interesting remarks upon this subject.

The temples of Memphis were of the most splendid description, especially that of Vulcan, which was commenced by Menes, || though it was not completed till many generations after his reign. Mœris erected the north entrance, ¶ Psammitichus the south,** and Mycerinus built the western portico, "which," says Herodotus, "was by far the greatest and most magnificent." †† Each of the vestibules was adorned with statues and other works of art. Amasis placed a co-

* Herod. iii. 26-28.

† Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, i. 213.

‡ Diod. i. 28. § Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, Second Series, i. 347.

|| Herod. ii. 99. ¶ Ibid. 101. ** Ibid. ii. 153. †† Ibid. ii. 136.

colossal recumbent figure, seventy-five feet long, in front of this temple. Upon the same pediment, formed out of the same stone, were two other colossal figures twenty feet high.* Here was also the Temple of Isis, "the grandeur of which excited universal admiration."† The Temple of Apis too, and the edifice in which this deified animal was kept, were grand and imposing structures. The latter fabric, erected by Psammitichus, was supported by colossal figures twelve cubits high, and richly decorated with sculpture.‡

These were among the embellishments of the ancient metropolis; but Memphis, once the seat of so much splendour, is now so entirely wasted, that great disparity of opinion exists in regard to the identity of its site. It is not a little surprising that a city of such fame and extent, long the capital of Egypt,—adorned with temples, palaces, and all that art and wealth could achieve to give grandeur and permanency to its structures—should have become so completely obliterated as to render its local position a question of uncertainty. Yet such is the mutability that destructively sweeps over every work of man's invention, that the crumbled vestiges of antiquity, which now strew the supposed site of Memphis, are insufficient to clear the mind from doubt, and prevent cavilling and dispute in regard to the locality of this ancient city.

We saw amid the smouldering mass at the base

* Herod. ii. 176.

† Ibid.

‡ Ibid. ii. 153.

of the mounds, fragments of columns, capitals, and other architectural remains. There was also a half-buried, mutilated colossal statue, which is called by Wilkinson the statue of Rameses II.* The "scientific antiquarians" have robbed this noble specimen of Egyptian art of both its feet, one arm, and a part of its cap. If entire, it would be upward of forty feet in height. It is supposed to be one of the colossal statues mentioned by Herodotus† and Diodorus,‡ which were erected by Sesostris in front of the Temple of Vulcan.§

A British author boasts of his country's possession of the fragment, which, with a spirit of Vandalism worthy the immortal renown of Lord Elgin, was taken by the spoilers of this statue. "One of the trophies," says he, "brought by our victorious army from Egypt, is the fist of a colossian statue, found among the ruins of Memphis, and very possibly it belonged to a statue of Vulcan." I think I have seen this boasted "trophy" in the British Museum; and there are some other fragments of "a colossian statue" in the same collection, which "very possibly belonged to" the same relic, and were "very possibly" abstracted by the same "victorious army" that spoiled this noble statue, and purloined its "fist." With the exception of these, and the fragments of another granite figure of colossal size, nearly covered by the earth, there is little to arrest the traveller's at-

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 338.

† Herod. ii. 110.

‡ Diod. i. 57.

§ Wilkinson's Thebes, 339.

tention about Mit-rahenny, the name of the wretched village that now stands upon the ruins of "the most famous city of Egypt!"



COLOSSAL FIST—NOT YET IN THE POSSESSION OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM—
SUPPOSED TO BE UNCLE SAM'S.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Separation of Friends. — Flare-up, and Boat-hunting. — Order of the Pacha and “Baron Pompolino.” — Embarkation, Pyramids of Dashour, and a Wild-goose Chase. — An Evening Circle. — Dancers of Ancient and Modern Egypt. — Dance of Miriam, David, Hippocrides, Herodias, and the Daughters of Shiloh.

THE total evaporation of Mr. Firkins, and the subsequent departure of Lord Scatterberry and his Nubian slave up the Nile, created a vacuum in the English circles at Cairo that was doomed to suffer a still more deplorable breach. Parliament was to be convened this year a month earlier than usual; and it had been heralded throughout the universe that her Majesty would open the sittings in person, with extraordinary pomp. In order that the colonel might be in his seat in time to hear the royal speech from the throne, the Builderdashes had, for the present, abandoned all idea of extending their researches further in Egypt, and were to return immediately to England.

The Wrinklebottoms, flea-bitten, vermin-haunted, chagrined and disheartened by a multiplicity of mis-

haps, had deliberately made up their minds that Cairo, without exception, was the "nastiest" place they had ever visited. Although the original plan of their travels embraced a much larger field than they had investigated, yet so disgusted had they become with every thing under the dominion of the Pacha, that they packed up their fire-arms, air-beds, musquitoe-nets, fly-traps, sketching-tools, and gin-bottles, and set off down the Nile—singing "Rule Britannia," and "God save the Queen!"

The Reverend Mr. Dunderblix had struck hands with two young Frenchmen, and was deep in the chaos of preparation for an immediate departure across the Syrian desert to the Holy Land.

A month had elapsed since the commencement of the daily donkey rides of Sir Danbury Rimtaper from Cairo to Bulak, in an unsuccessful search for a boat of sufficient size and elegance to convey him and his three maiden sisters to Thebes. Engaged in a similar pursuit, we encountered that distinguished individual, limping from boat to boat, in a most cheerless state of mind. The north wind whistled through the vale, scattering the fine sands annoyingly on all who ventured within its blasts. The eyes of Sir Danbury, naturally inclining to a scarlet tinge and an excess of mucus, having been attacked by ophthalmia, now presented a fiery aspect. His beard had attained an enormous length, resembling in its disordered, bristly condition, a pitch mop. The rheumatism had monopolized the use of his right arm; and the gout was again developing itself in his lower ex-

tremities. Sir Danbury swore most bitterly, and said he had "never been caught in such a demmed extraordinary predicament in all his life, 'pon honour!"

Doctor O'Squeebey had indulged in a valiant flare-up with our doughty dragoman, and had struck him several violent blows with his sabre. Selim swore revenge, and declared he would dissect the doctor with his corbash! The dragoman had shown himself so unworthy of our confidence, that we were at last determined to get rid of him. Upon giving him a hint that his resignation would be accepted, he tendered it to us; and we left him and Doctor O'Squeebey to settle their affair in the way they should deem most compatible with their respective positions in Egyptian society.

On our first visit to Bulak, we were accosted by an Arab, who desired to charter a half-finished boat which lay upon the bank, assuring us, as he clinched his long beard, that it would be finished and ready to sail "to-morrow." Knowing the fellow's story to be untrue, and that it would take many days to complete it, we passed on with the expectation of being able to resume our voyage long before his boat would be in a condition to launch. Our expectations, however, were not realized; and the rais of the unfinished boat, constant from day to day in his importunities, induced us at last to examine it. A bargain was the result; and we agreed to pay him fourteen hundred piasters per month for the boat and nine men, all found. The cabin was to be fitted up as we desired; the boat was to have two masts, plenty of

canvass, an awning—in short, every thing that heart could wish was *promised*, and “all,” as the rais said, “should be ready to-morrow.” This we knew would be impossible; and we had an understanding that he should have three days more to complete every thing, and for every day’s delay thereafter, he was to forfeit three days’ pay of men and boat. Although every thing was amicably agreed upon, our difficulties had but just commenced.

An order of the Pacha, prohibiting the sailing of any boat from Bulak, had just reached Cairo, and the governor was pressing boats and sailors into the Pacha’s service, to carry corn from Upper Egypt to Alexandria. This prohibitory order was generally waived in favour of the Franks; but the rais was nevertheless afraid to make application for leave to sail his boat, lest by so doing he might become a candidate for the bastinado. Consequently, the permission could only be obtained by us, through the medium of *Monsieur le “Baron Pompolino.”*

Upon making our wants known to the consular dignitary, he pulled himself up to his full official altitude, assumed a grave and consequential demeanour, and began, in an inflated and affected style, to state the delicacy and difficulty of the negotiation. He more than hinted at our imprudence in not placing ourselves under his paternal care, and the guidance of his retainers; informed us that no American could make a valid contract in Egypt without the broad seal pertaining to his office; and stated the instance of Mr. C——t, who had sailed a few days previous

without his ratification of the agreement. He said that in case of any difficulty between Mr. C——tt and his men, he could not interpose the “powers of the consulate.” He ordered his janizary and dragoman to go with us to the boat and arrange every thing.

Being put under *arrest*, or rather, as it was called, under the *protection* of these appendages of the consulate, we posted off to Bulak. When we arrived at the boat, the dragoman condemned it as a miserable affair; said it would not do at all, and could not possibly be ready to sail short of ten days! We were then conducted to another boat, bearing the French flag. To our surprise, the dragoman began to chaffer for the price of this boat; and the rais, though already engaged to a Frenchman, considered the promise of increased wages a just pretext for violating his contract, and changing the tri-colours of a kingdom for the stripes and stars of a republic.

We saw that our business was now in other hands; and we had little more to do than to follow the dragoman from boat to boat, and from Cairo to Bulak, and from Bulak to Cairo. Two days were consumed by this diversion, and nothing accomplished. The Frenchman, however, ascertaining that his rais had endeavoured to charter his boat to the dragoman of “Baron Pompolino,” caused him (the rais) to be severely bastinaded, and then pushed off down the Nile.

The dragoman finally came back to the new boat which he had at first so emphatically condemned; and, after a few minutes’ *very* confidential chat with

the rais, he found "it was just the very thing for us: nothing could answer our purpose half so well." He enlarged, in the oriental style, upon the good qualities of the boat and the amiability of the rais; whereupon the old bargain being revived, the learned dragoman sat down on the floor and wrote an agreement. This document being drawn up in Arabic, we should have been left in the lurch at last, had it not been for the presence of a clever Syrian, who explained to us the import of the mysterious chirography, by which it appeared that we were firmly bound in the agreement; but the fulfilment of the Arab's part of it was to be taken pretty much for granted. This Syrian was called a great rascal by "Baron Pompolino" and his household; but we found him quite obliging and useful in this business.

Permission to sail the boat having been obtained merely by asking, and the three days allowed the rais for putting every thing in sailing order having expired, this lying son of the Prophet came and told us that all was ready, and requested us to take our luggage on board. We found, however, on going to the boat, that he, as usual, lied to us; and that the deck was to be calked, the cabin finished, and the rudder made; there were no sails, and only one mast!

Upon our making known this imposition to Baron Pompolino, he blustered about—said he would bring the "whole powers of the consulate to bear upon the case," and despatched his subtle dragoman and gay janizary with us back to the boat. A long conversation with the rais ensued, to no purpose. By

the assistance of the Syrian, who had kindly aided us during the illness of Mr. J——, we brought the case before the captain of the port. He was a greasy Turk, with a most Tartarous countenance. Before we had informed him of half the circumstances, he said — “I will send for the rais, and bastinado him as long as you wish !”

Our desire being merely to have the rais fulfil his agreement, we declined this proposition, and endeavoured in vain to persuade him to go on and complete every thing as he had promised. This he refused to do, saying that *his* boat would sail as fast with one sail as other boats would with two ! To give this boasting all the *éclat* of eastern declamation, he said he would forfeit two hundred piasters per month if such did not prove to be the case. Upon asking him to reduce this proposition to writing, he declined ; and his friend the dragoman assured us it was quite unnecessary — “For the thing is understood,” said he, “and that is sufficient.” Our experience had taught us the importance of putting agreements with the Arabs in writing ; and, in this case, we insisted upon it, with an intimation of an appeal to the virtues of the captain of the port’s sovereign remedy, the bastinado. Seeing us determined, the rais complied with our request ; and after a further delay of a day and a half, we set off with one sail,

Embarking at Old Cairo, a favourable breeze soon wafted us past the palm-groves of Memphis and the crumbling pyramids of Dashour. Having adverse winds the two following days, the pyramids still remained in sight.

Two of these pyramids, which are of stone, have been opened. The summit of one is finished at a more obtuse angle than the lower part. This, as is supposed, was done for the more rapid completion of the structure.* One of the brick pyramids of Dashour bears this inscription: "Compare me not with the stone pyramids, for I am as much superior to them as Jove is to the other gods. Thus was I made: men probing with poles the bottom of a lake, drew forth the mud which adhered to them, and formed it into bricks."† Some have conjectured that these pyramids were constructed by the Israelites.

Myriads of wild fowl hovered over the Nile, and we often saluted them with discharges of musketry. Mr. J—— shattered the wing of a goose so severely that it was unable to rise from the water; and the Arabs, thinking it an easy prey, put the boat about, and after a vain pursuit of an hour, we gave it up as a regular "wild-geese chase."

On the third day, as the sun's last rays tinged the hoary tops of Libya's heights, the sailors hauled the boat up in front of a palm-shaded village on the left side of the river, and staked it for the night. The full moon shone brightly in the heavens; the golden current of the Nile glided gently down, and mirrored back the dark forms and faces of the village nymphs, as they dipped their jugs into the water, and bore them off upon their heads. Music rose upon the stillness of the night, and dancing, beneath the pending

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 338.

† Herod. ii. 136, and Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, i. 131.

leaves of spreading palms, soon commenced. We walked to the scene of mirth, and found the half-clad villagers revelling in the wild delights of their rude amusements. As we approached, the joyous throng hospitably enlarged its circle, and we sat down in the space kindly made for our accommodation.



DANCING-GIRLS OF EGYPT.

The music was primitive and peculiar. An old man, with a venerable beard and ample turban, sat upon the ground, torturing a two-stringed instrument. His doleful strains were accompanied by the wild, incongruous notes of a gipsy-looking female sitting near him, beating upon a tambourine. In the centre of

the ring, two young and beautiful girls, with graceful forms and flowing attire, were "tripping it on the light fantastic toe" in a style which I have never seen imitated in any other country.

"With sports like these were all their cares beguiled;—
The sports of children satisfy the child."

Dancing-women are numerous in all the large towns of Egypt. Though venal and abandoned in character, they are the most beautiful women in the country. They are said to form a distinct race;* never intermarrying with other classes, and devoting themselves to the same occupations from generation to generation. Their husbands are looked upon in the light of servants; who, like the old Egyptians, are governed by the whims and caprices of their "better halves." Their dress is usually the same as is worn in the harems, and they are often adorned with a profusion of ornaments.

The delineations upon the ancient tombs testify to the antiquity of dancing in Egypt. The dancers at some of their private entertainments are represented even more licentious than the exhibitions of the courtesan dancers of the present day—"Though in the presence of men of high station, they are depicted in a state of perfect nudity."† These scenes are painted upon some of the oldest tombs; and we are assured that "the *pirouette* delighted an Egyptian party more than thirty-five hundred years ago."‡ From the varied attitude and gestures of these representations of the ancients, their movements were

* Lane's *Modern Egyptians*, ii. 101. † *Ibid.* ii. 102.

‡ Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, ii. 333.

diversified and graceful. "That they danced at the temples in honour of the gods, is evident from the representations of several sacred processions, where individuals performed certain gestures to the sound of suitable music, and danced as they approached the sacred courts."*

This amusement was unquestionably indulged in by the Egyptians before the Exodus of the Israelites; and the dance of Miriam and the women who went out after her "with timbrels and with dances,"† subsequent to the crossing of the Red Sea, was probably the same as those of the Egyptians of that period. David, after a solemn sacrifice, "danced before the Lord with all his might;"‡ and he says, "Let them praise his name in the dance."§ When he was returning from the slaughter of the Philistines, the women came out to meet him "from all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing."|| Solomon assures us that "there is a time to dance;"¶ and the prophet says: "O virgin of Israel, thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry."**

The daughters of Shiloh unwittingly danced themselves into the matrimonial state.†† But Hippoclidés, with his heels in the air, "danced away his wife."‡‡ All nations have their peculiar dances; and possibly the dance of the frail daughters of the Nile, which we saw while seated with the Arabs upon its banks, may be the same kind of performance with which

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, ii. 340.

† Exodus xv. 20.

‡ 2 Sam. vi. 14. § Psalm cxlix. 3. || 1 Sam. xviii. 6. ¶ Eccl. iii. 4.

** Jer. xxi. 4.

†† Judges xxi. 21-23.

‡‡ Herod. vi. 129.

the earliest Pharaohs were entertained. Jacob, Joseph and his brethren, Moses and Aaron—all may have been amused with the same kind of exhibition, upon the borders of the same river; and, for aught we know, it may not have been dissimilar to that of Herodias, which delighted Herod and his drunken lords, and cost John the Baptist his head !*

* Mark vi. 22-28.



A TATTOOED EGYPTIAN GIRL.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

Sudden and pressing Demand. — Idiots and Lunatics regarded as Saints. — Female Devotion to the Holy Persons. — Description of the Crocodile and its Habits. — Worshipped as a Deity by the Ancients. — Ghénneh, its Manufactures, and His Excellency the Governor. — Rough Reception of the Rais. — Solicited to enter upon the Practice of Medicine. — A Mystery solved, and a rare Specimen of Smoking.

AFTER two days' baffling against wind and current, with the men at the rope, a light breeze had partially filled our sail, and we were gliding moderately past a high ledge of sand-stone rock that hung over the stream, blackened with wild fowl, taking their places in the shelvy crevices for the night. Mr. J—— raised his gun to discharge its contents among them, when, to *their* alarm and *our* surprise, two men suddenly rose upon the summit of the ledge, vociferating, — "*Buckshish! buckshish! Cristiáno hawágee, — buckshish!*" Mr. J—— dropped his gun, and the two strangers rushed down the precipice with fearful rapidity. One plunged into the stream and swam toward the boat, in order to press his demand more emphatically on board. The breeze swept us on, and the current bore him far astern. Missing his aim, he

was compelled to land far down on the opposite side of the river. But he had no sooner touched the shore, than, taking to his heels, he ran on a considerable distance above us, plunged in again, and came down in fine style. He soon had hold of the boat, and pleaded hard for *buckshish*; but having lost our shot at the ducks by his noisy importunities, we were not in a mood for "casting our bread upon the waters" in such an equivocal vessel. On being made acquainted with the obduracy of our hearts, he returned to his companion, the faint outline of whose figure was still visible through the dim shades of twilight; and his voice resounded upon the gathering night—
"Buckshish! *Cristiáno howágee, buckshish!*"

The superstitious sailors, shocked at our stupidity in refusing to satisfy the clamorous demands of these strangers, religiously believed that we had thereby incurred the displeasure of the Prophet, and that we would surely all be cast away! These were some friars, who, with many more of their brethren, waste their existence in an old convent in the cliffs of the mountain, begging their bread from the Egyptians, who regard them as saints.

On the seventh day, we touched at Minieh, an old town on the left bank of the river, with several thousand as wretched beings as we had seen in Egypt. None of them were very lavishly decked with clothing, and one, an idiot, was perambulating the streets stark naked! This would not have surprised us much, were it not for the flattering attentions he received from the women. They flocked about him,

and almost smothered the filthy creature with their embraces. We were informed that this man and all others similarly afflicted, as well as harmless lunatics, are regarded by the Egyptians as the especial favourites of Heaven, whose minds, having been absolved from all impurity, and taken their upward flight, repose in the celestial regions; while their bodies, unfit for heaven, linger in giddy vacancy upon the earth! "Most of the reputed saints of Egypt are lunatics, idiots, and impostors. Some of them go about entirely naked, and are so highly venerated that the women, instead of avoiding them, sometimes suffer these wretches to take any liberty with them in the public streets; and, by the lower orders, are not considered disgraced by such actions."*

Availing ourselves of a favourable breeze, we loosened our boat, and swept away on the voyage. We were soon in the region of crocodiles, and saluted them with many harmless discharges of musketry. This produced no other effect than to rouse these sluggish monsters from their dull repose, and cause them to plunge their huge black forms beneath the waves.

"He maketh the deep to boil like a pot. Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth are terrible round about. His scales are his pride, shut up together as with a close seal. None is so fierce as dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before him? He esteemeth iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood."†

* Lane's Modern Egyptians, i. 313. † Job xli. 10, 14, 15, 27, 31.

This representation of the leviathan answers very well for that of the crocodile ; and by many it is sup-



CROCODILE OF THE NILE.

posed the latter was the monster described by the Lord unto Job “out of the whirlwind.”* I have seen crocodiles of various sizes—some, I should judge, of twenty-five or thirty feet in length ; and they are represented in some instances as of the enormous length of fifty feet ! We were often near enough to discharge a ball with full force against their impervious sides ; but all attacks of this kind were ineffectual. They are invulnerable in all parts except the belly, which may be penetrated by a musket-ball or spear. Their voracity and strength are surprising. “With one stroke of his tail,” says Mallet, “I saw one of twelve feet, which had eaten nothing for thirty-five days, throw down five or six men and a bale of coffee.”

* Job xl. 6.

Herodotus says : “ During the four severer months of winter, it eats nothing No animal that I have seen or known, from being at first so remarkably diminutive, grows to so vast a size The eggs are not larger than those of geese It has eyes like a hog, teeth large and prominent ; but, unlike all other animals, it has no tongue. It only moves its upper jaw Its feet are armed with strong fangs The skin is protected with scales In the open air its sight is remarkably acute, but it cannot see at all in the water Its throat is always full of leeches ; beasts and birds universally avoid it It reclines itself on the sand with its mouth open : the trochilus, entering its throat, destroys the leeches ; in acknowledgment for which service, it never does the trochilus injury.”*

Diodorus says that were it not for the ichneumon, which destroys the crocodiles and their eggs, “ crocodiles would abound to that degree, that there would be no sailing in the Nile The ichneumon rolls himself in mud, and then, observing the crocodile sleeping upon the bank of the river with his mouth wide open, suddenly whips down through his throat into his bowels, gnaws his way through the belly, and so escapes himself, with the death of his enemy.”†

The ancient Egyptians living at Thebes and about the lake Mœris, regarded this monster as a god. “ They select one,” says Herodotus, “ which they render tame and docile, suspending gold ornaments from its ears, and sometimes gems of value ; the fore feet

* Herod. ii. 68.

† Diod. i. 87.

are secured by a chain. They feed it with the flesh of the sacred victims, and with other appointed food. While it lives, they treat it with unceasing attention ; and when it dies, it is first embalmed, and afterward deposited in a sacred chest.”*

While crocodiles were worshipped at Thebes, they were devoured by the inhabitants of Elephantine,† and destroyed as an obnoxious and detested creature by the citizens of Dendera.‡ Near el-Maabdeh, opposite Maufaloot, there are extensive chambers cut in the rock, and filled with crocodile mummies.§

The fourteenth day's struggling with the current, head winds, and lazy sailors, brought us to Ghenneh, one of the largest towns in Upper Egypt. It is built of mud and sun-dried brick, and contains twenty-one thousand inhabitants. It stands on the right bank of the river, in the midst of a broad and fertile plain, backed by the Arabian mountains, which stretch amphitheatrically round on three sides. Here the Pacha has a cotton factory and large storehouses. As the granaries of his Highness had no roofs, the pigeons, in countless thousands, were dividing the spoils, while the stupid guardians, seated in the sand at the gate, were smoking their pipes, regardless of almost every thing else passing around them. Here too is an extensive pottery or manufactory of water-jugs. As a specimen of the price of the products of Upper Egypt, it may be sufficient to say, that a dozen good-sized jugs cost only five cents ; milk two and a half

* Herod. ii. 69.

† Ibid.

‡ Ibid. note 130.

§ Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, iii. 401.

cents per gallon ; fifty-six eggs, five cents ; and the sailors bought a hundred and sixty loaves of bread for ten cents ! These are among the effects of the “ corn laws ” of Egypt.



AN ORIENTAL POTTER.

While our servant was making a few purchases in the bazar, we called to pay our respects to the Governor of Ghenneh. We found his Excellency seated upon a mat in an upper chamber, surrounded by his myrmidons in costume, armed to the teeth. The court of his residence was filled with soldiers ; and the great staircase conducting to the audience-hall was lined with janizaries, loaded with pistols, sabres, and staves. We were received with much cordiality ; and, after coffee and pipes, and a little chat of a general nature, we revealed to the governor the perplexity we had experienced from our *rais*.

This fellow, who was by his agreement to do the work of two men, that is, perform the duties of captain and pilot, had really done nothing but embarrass us. He had annoyed us in every possible manner, and used all his influence with the crew to make them as bad as himself. Immediately upon hearing our complaint, the governor ordered the refractory rais to be brought before him. Several armed janizaries being despatched for that purpose, soon returned with the awe-struck delinquent, who prostrated himself in the dust, and kissed the governor's feet. As he obsequiously raised himself from the floor, the governor pierced him with a look that made him shudder, and then vociferated a thunder-gust of angry words upon the slavish Egyptian, which really made us apprehensive for his safety.

The governor proposed to bastinado him, but we were only desirous that he should be brought to a sense of his duty, and interposed in his behalf; and the trembling rais was finally dismissed from the terrible presence of this Turkish governor, with the threat, that "should he hear the least complaint on our return, he would half kill him (the rais) and all the crew!"

Taking respectful leave of his Excellency, we returned to the boat, found the rais and all the men at their posts, and, giving our sail to the wind, we bore off again upon the voyage.

In our rambles on shore, we had numerous applications from the natives for "medical advice and attendance." One had a scorched head and sore eyes;

another had a split toe and a battered shin ; a third a shattered shoulder and a cracked scull ; a fourth was doubled into a creseent with the cramp ; a fifth was leprous ; a sixth wanted her nose bored, and a dose of pills. In short, sick or well, all wanted physic, and placed the most implicit confidence in our medical skill. They would have taken any thing at our hands ; and had we been furnished with material, and a disposition for such wickedness, we might, for aught I know, have poisoned half the Arabs of Upper Egypt. However, we wandered on, curious to know how they found out that we were all physicians, and impressed with the richness of this field for the patent nostrums, red-pepper doses, and steam-filtering practice so extensively in vogue in this enlightened age.

Resuming our places on board, we glided on without meeting a crocodile all day. We began to thirst for wonders and excitation. While we were thus struggling in the uneasy arms of *ennui*, we descried in the distance an unwieldy lumbering craft floating down sideways. She had the American flag streaming over her, and made such a sluggish, water-logged kind of headway, that we at first thought it a wreck. Her masts were taken down, and she was drifting at random. It was the first *Frank* boat we had seen ; and, although under the protection of the stars and stripes of our own country, her appearance was every way so *outré*, her movements so indolent and anaconda-like, that we concluded some renegade Dutchmen or vegetating Turks had assumed our spangled banner ; and, abandoning themselves to the sluggish

current, were fuming their hours away in listlessness and ease. It was some time before we discovered any signs of animal existence on board. No living thing was visible, and the attention of all our men was riveted upon the approaching phenomenon.

We ordered one of the men, a Nubian, who had a stentorian voice, to hail the enigmatical craft; and, should there be Americans on board, to request the favour of an interview. The old sailor, advancing to the bow of the boat, vociferated a salutation that filled the vale, and resounded far up toward his native hills. This roused the torpid *voyageurs*, and after a voluble "how-d'ye-do" between our respective crews, both boats were run against the bank.

The boat of the stranger was nearly as large as the ship in which Columbus discovered the New World. The deck was filled with men; and a small flock of sheep were penned up on one side, with a capacious hen-coop, well stocked with poultry, suspended over their heads. Bird-cages, fishing-nets, traps, guns, pistols, and daggers, hung in well-arranged lines in front of the cabin. The main-mast, lashed down lengthwise of the boat, at an elevation of five or six feet above the deck, was strung from one end to the other with stuffed lizards, alligators, crocodiles, salamanders, mummied cats, bats, snakes, and hawks; while hippopotamus shields, spears, bows, arrows, and javelins were mingled with numerous other reminiscences of travel, and suspended from different parts of the rigging. The whole resembled a "curiosity shop,"

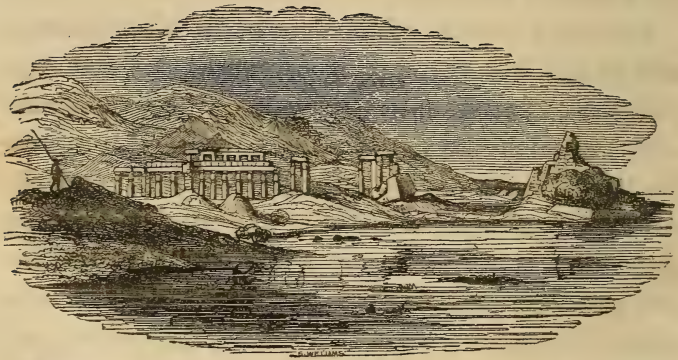
or rather a vessel of discovery returning from a three years' cruise off the coast of Barbary.

The American (for there was only one on board) was a little dapper man of slender figure, standing, in his spangled, peaked-toed Turkish slippers, about five feet one. His head was shaved, and the straggling red hairs vegetating about the corners of his cadaverous mouth were carefully gathered into a kind of fiery mustache, giving to his freckled visage an air of striking significance. His face, burnt to a crisp by the sun, might not inappositely be compared to the face of a red cornelian letter-stamp, with his name engraved upon it in the Arabic characters. He wore a red turboosh and fancy jacket, of eastern cut. His "inexpressibles" were of an ambiguous character, a sort of fabrication between the Highland kilt and bag breeches of the Greek sailors. He held a quizzing-glass in one hand, and a long-stemmed, full-charged, fuming pipe in the other. He saluted us in the oriental manner; and his squeaking voice, set to a falsetto key, was skilfully modulated to the foreign accent. Every sentence he uttered was a perfect study, and came forth with an exactness and elevation worthy the reputation of "Lord Burleigh." He embellished his brilliant and edifying conversation with some of the most elaborate and highly-finished whiffs from his Arab pipe that I have ever seen burst from human lips! Each puff of smoke, as it mingled with the air, seemed but the very embodiment or fac simile of both the outer and inner man of the accomplished smoker. This acquirement was particularly remark-

ed and greatly admired by all our party, and conceded at once to be the prettiest thing of the kind we had ever seen. From the well-dressed blackleg who picks his teeth upon the door-steps of the "Astor;" the English swell, who sports his gig and hounds; the imperturbable German, who vegetates and expires in the delightful fumes of his favourite narcotic; the sombre Dutchman, who shrouds the dull waters of his gloomy country with the eternal blasts of his pipe; the plethoric Turk, who beclouds his existence in perfumed exhalations bursting from costly amber, to the filthy Arab, who trims his corn-stalk pipe in the sands of Egypt—I have never seen any thing of the kind in point of finish to equal the performance of our own little countryman whom we encountered on the banks of the Nile.

He was a little bewildered as to his whereabouts; said he had lost the day of the week, and the day and name of the month; he could not rightly inform us when he set out from Cairo, but believed it was in the beginning of winter. He did not know precisely where he had been, or what he had seen, and apologized for forgetting his native tongue! He said he had rarely spoken any other than the French language during his voyage, and offered *that* as an unnecessary apology for his bad English. I congratulated him upon still being able to speak his own language tolerably well; and I afterward remarked to my companions, that such was my estimation of his abilities, I had little doubt that, were he to drop his French and apply himself strictly to the English

for a few weeks, he would master his mother tongue so effectually, that no one would have the least suspicion of his ever having spoken a word of French in his life. The doctor said, "He was a promising young man, and was likely to return home wondrously improved by foreign travel." Exchanging adieus and good wishes with our countryman, we unfurled our sail, and were soon wafted amid the indestructible ruins of Thebes.



VIEW OF THE MEMNONIUM AT THEBES DURING THE INUNDATION.



Engraved by G. Fisher

Drawn by C. Stanfield, A.R.C.A. from a sketch by Auguste Perrot

NCO-A-MMON, THE EGYPTIANS

View of the great Temple at Karnak.

Mr. shall be read asunder.

CHAPTER XL.

Thebes. — Temples of Luqsor and Karnak. — Esneh and the Temple of Latopolis. — An agreeable Meeting. — American, Scotch, and English Amalgamation. — Natives of Upper Egypt. — Quarries of Gébel Silsili. — Ruins of Kom Ombos. — Arrival at the Cataracts. — The American Consul. — Peter J. Scantletrash and his Servant Paul. — Elephantine. — Quarries of Syene. — E' Souan.

“Not all proud Thebes’ unrivalled walls contain,
 The world’s great empress on the Egyptian plain,
 That spreads her conquest o’er a thousand states,
 And pours her heroes through a hundred gates ;
 Two hundred horsemen, and two hundred cars,
 From each wide portal issuing to the wars !”

DIODORUS says : “ Thebes was in circuit a hundred and forty furlongs, adorned with stately public buildings, magnificent temples, and rich donations and revenues to admiration ; and not only the most beautiful and stateliest city of Egypt, but of the whole world.”*

The mind is forcibly impressed with the truth of this glowing picture of Thebes, even in contemplating the ruins that strew her desecrated site. The Arabian and Libyan mountains, rising into a bold outline, encircle, as with half-clasped arms, its crushed

* Dioid. i. 51.

temples and fallen colossi, which mingle with the soil on either side of the river, whose broad current sweeps through the fertile plain. The violated tombs of its ancient inhabitants, perforating the surrounding acclivities, are now the polluted abodes of the modern Egyptians, and defiled with the excrement of their goats and donkeys !

Yet, amid all this desecration and defilement, Thebes abounds in rich and astonishing relics of departed greatness, remains of enlightened generations long since passed away ; remains which, though crushed and spoiled by successive conquerors, and robbed by Vandal relic-venders, grow not old with time ; but, with venerable centuries thick upon them, retain the freshness and finish of new achievements. The mysterious, unread, and unreadable writing of three thousand years ago, now embellishing the desecrated tombs and fallen temples of Thebes, is yet vivid and glowing with all the brightness of new-laid tints ! Mossless and unbrowned with time, the polished obelisk, glistening like burnished brass, with thirty centuries poured upon its heaven-directed apex, still soars sublime and beautiful amid dissolving ruins ! Founded as hills of living rock, and towering before the crumbled temples, lofty gateways, through which Egypt's Pharaohs strode in state to worship at their golden altars, stand yet unshaken, the proud monuments of a faded glory ! Bereaved columns and bruised colossi, rearing their time-defying summits above the expanding plain, bear not the marks of age, but rather the Vandal crush of the spoiler !

The ruin at Luqsor, where we landed, and which occupies a part of the site of ancient Diospolis, or Thebes, is a temple, the work of successive monarchs, who were upon the throne of Egypt nearly thirty-two hundred years ago!* It stands upon a slight elevation on the right bank of the Nile, from the encroachments of which it is defended by a substantial pier, constructed of massive stone, apparently of Greek or Roman workmanship. The entrance to this temple is through a lofty gateway two hundred feet long, which rises nearly sixty feet above the level of the soil. On either side of the portal are two colossal statues, in a sitting posture; and, though shrouded nearly to the breast in sand, about twenty feet of each are still visible, and bear incontestable proof of the wanton depredations of the relic-hunter. Before the statues, two beautiful obelisks of red granite, measuring nearly ten feet square at the base, rose to the height of eighty feet. One of these has been removed at a vast expense by the French, and now soars above the blood-stained soil of the Place Louis XV. at Paris. The other, still fresh and beautiful, rears its majestic proportions over the battered ruins that encumber its base. Entering the portal, we stood in an area about two hundred feet long and a hundred and seventy broad. This is surrounded by two rows of columns. Leaving the area, we passed a colonnade of colossal structure, a hundred and seventy feet in length; this conducts to an open court, a hundred and sixty-seven by a hun-

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 166, 167; and his Ancient Egyptians, i. 48.

dred and fifty-five feet, encircled by a peristyle with twenty-four columns, and connected with a portico, a hundred and eleven by fifty-seven feet, supported by thirty-two columns. To this succeeds the principal rooms of the temple, which were of different dimensions, and are now in a state of complete dilapidation. The Arabs have built their cabins of mud against the temple on all sides; and perhaps where Pharaoh knelt before his gilded god, surrounded by all the vain "pomp and circumstance" of royalty, a donkey now brays and mires in filth!

This temple was connected with those still more splendid and extensive of Karnak by an avenue lined on either hand by colossal sphinxes. The remains of many of these are yet visible above the rank grass and accumulations which have been long gathering upon the consecrated path.

The remains of the temple at Karnak are the glory of all the ruins of Thebes; in the contemplation of which all other objects of the kind dwindle into comparative insignificance. Contrasted with these, the Parthenon, the Theseum of Athens, and the time-worn temples of Pæstum seem but delicate bawbles, that may be tossed from hand to hand, and mingled with the ornaments of a lady's casket; the Coliseum of Rome might be converted into a turboosh, and the lofty columns of the temple of Jupiter Olympus at Athens may be used as walking-sticks!

No language can convey to the reader an adequate idea of the vastness and extent of these ruins, nor their overpowering influence upon the mind of the

beholder. We traversed them over and over again, rode around them, measured courts, encompassed columns, surveyed chambers and porticoes, ascended towers, and mused over broken statues, until, fatigued with wonder and excitement, we left the desolate heap almost bewildered, and without a satisfactory conception of the detailed plan of this indestructible ruin. All that I shall attempt, therefore, will be to give some idea of the general plan and arrangement of this mighty ruin, as it appeared to us in our cursory examinations.

It had originally twelve entrances, nearly all of which had connexion, by long avenues of sphinxes, with other temples. That conducting to the temple at Luqsor was a mile and a half in extent; and that leading from the gigantic gateway on the north-west side, to the river, was nearly of the same length. This was the grand front, and faced a magnificent temple on the opposite side of the river, where its ruins are yet conspicuous. The great propylon on the north-west side, built of undressed stone, is three hundred and fifty feet long, thirty in width, and rises seventy feet above the rubbish at the base, which seemed to be at least thirty feet in depth. This enormous gateway, therefore, was originally at least one hundred feet in height. The pylon, twenty-three feet in width and fifty feet high, opens upon a court two hundred and seventy-five feet wide and three hundred and thirty feet long. On either side there are a close wall, and a row of columns twenty-seven feet in circumference. The columns and walls are

covered with hieroglyphics, and nearly concealed by fallen rubbish. A double row of columns, sixty feet in height and twenty-seven in circumference, extended through the centre of the court. Only one of these is standing, and with its expansive capital overshadowing its fallen companions, it is a sublime and beautiful object. The court terminates with a second propylon, three hundred and three feet long, and, according to the best measurement we could obtain, fifty feet thick at the base. This Cyclopean structure now lies in ruins, and resembles a small mountain of rock, broken and thrown down in great confusion. The doorway opening through this propylon into the grand portico of the temple, is nearly perfect, and richly embellished with sculpture and painting. It cannot be less than sixty feet in height, and yet some of the sand-stone blocks forming the top of it are forty feet ten inches long and five feet two square!* The grand hall, three hundred and thirty feet in length and a hundred and seventy in width, is adorned with a hundred and thirty-four massive columns. These are all elaborately sculptured and painted. Twelve of them, thirty-six feet in circumference, are sixty-six feet high, exclusive of the pedestal and abacus; but with these, they are over seventy feet in height. The one hundred and twenty-two others are twenty-seven and a half feet in circumference and forty-two feet high. This gorgeous hall is terminated by a massive propylon on the east, beyond which is a large court with a magnificent obe-

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, iii. 332.

lisk nearly one hundred feet high. Another of similar dimensions lies in shattered fragments at its base. Passing a fourth propylon, there are two other obelisks of surpassing beauty, surrounded by rows of broken colossal figures. To these succeed another dilapidated propylon, and another court of similar dimensions. Beyond this a granite gateway opens into the court of the sanctuary. The sanctuary, constructed of polished granite, comprises two apartments with azure roofs, spangled with stars of gold, and surrounded by numerous chambers, of various size and embellishment. We have now reached the sanctuary, through only one of the twelve entrances. Corresponding to that already described, and commencing at a distance of twelve hundred feet east of the sanctuary, another passage opened through propylons, courts, colonnades, and porticoes, and conducted to the *sanctum sanctorum*, or holy of holies. Tottering gateways in all directions open their vacant and desolate portals upon the ruined temple, whose massive walls that now strew the plain were sculptured with the battle-scenes, conquests, and sacrificial offerings of the long line of Pharaohs, who contributed to its vast extent, and added to the sumptuosity of its adornment.

The wind being favourable for the continuation of our voyage, we postponed the further examination of the ruins of Thebes till our return from the cataracts.

In two days we were at Esneh, the ancient Latopolis. On the morning after our arrival, we rose with the sun, delighted with the gladsome face of na-

ture. The beauteous songsters of the Nile flitted along its green-fringed banks, revelling in joy. But man, sombre and sad, walked forth from his rude habitation the incarnation of misery! Why is it that, surrounded by scenes so delightful, basking beneath a perpetually cloudless sky, which is lighted up with a sun that never disappears but to rise again with renewed splendour,—man, loathsome, filthy, wretched man, is the only blotch upon the fair picture! Yet so it is.

Esneh is situated on the left bank of the Nile, overlooking a broad and fertile plain which, when we were there (first of February), was green with voluptuous herbage. This is the residence of a number of Coptic families; but it is mainly interesting to the general tourist on account of the portico of an ancient temple, said to be the most perfect specimen of Egyptian architecture extant.

The portico is supported by twenty-four columns, beautified with sculpture and vivid colours. The devices upon the capitals are slightly varied one from another. On one, the lotus-leaves are shooting up their prim and formal proportions; another is encircled with the hanging vine; a third is decked with the graceful palm-leaf; a fourth is entwined with ivy festoons: thus all are slightly varied; but so regular in their irregularity, and so beautiful withal, that, to the cursory observer, the difference is not perceptible. The zodiac is sculptured on the ceiling, and on some of the deified figures the ignoble names of vain travellers are deeply chiselled; though for what purpose, I

do not know, except it be to record the fact that on a certain time some fools were there. The entablature is composed of massive blocks of stone, stretching from column to column, and comprising in each piece architrave, frieze, and cornice—sitting back at the same time far enough to cover the columns, which are about six feet in diameter. The portico is covered on all sides with hieroglyphics. This beautiful relic of Egyptian art is now half concealed by sand and filth. Arab huts are clustered round, and Pharaoh's temple contains Mehemet Ali's cotton-bags, mustard-seed, and beans!

As we were chatting over a cup of tea in the twilight of the second day after we left Esneh, we saw a large boat coming down, with two flags. As they neared us, a salute was fired, signals were exchanged, and we discovered that it was an amalgamation company of American, Scotch, and English. Boats were run ashore, calls exchanged, corks drawn, pipes lighted, coffee circulated, and mutual inquiries made and responded to with a cordiality that did one's heart good. Though we were strangers to each other, it was a social and an agreeable meeting. I cannot but think, however, that it was owing in a great measure to the influence of the American over his two companions. One was an English "half pay officer," with brown gaiter boots, red cap, blue stock, shaved head, and flashy vest; the other an easy Scotch gentleman, with long beard and tartan breeches. They had chartered the boat together, but the American insisted upon sailing under the flag of his own coun-

try ; and the stars and stripes were flying at one end of the boat, while the English colours streamed from a flag-staff at the other. They had been a long time on the Nile, and looked rather brown from the effects of sun, toil, and pleasure. The American, free in conversation, intelligent, and easy in manners, was inclined to take things quietly, and to allow himself the necessary time to see every object of interest in a rational way. He was in no hurry ; thought the voyage had been delightful ; in short, nothing went amiss with him. The red-haired Scotchman took snuff and smoked most profoundly. He had nothing to say about the voyage, except that "it had been rather expensive." The "half pay officer" was not so tranquil. He swore most characteristically ; nothing had gone right ; "the boat was too heavy, the men bad, and the rais a fiend." He was afflicted with a bile, had sore eyes, could not drink the "nasty" water ; fleas bit him, vermin annoyed him through the day, and rats cantered over him during the night. As he gave us the list of his grievances, his face assumed a convulsive scowl, resembling a collapsed bagpipe. When we informed him of the warlike aspect of affairs in Lower Egypt, and that it was possible, on his return to Cairo, he might find Alexandria blockaded by British ships of war, and himself a prisoner in the clutches of the viceroy, he raved like a mad bull ; cursed Mehemet Ali, damned the Turks, and looked vile enough to blow up the fleet and the "Great Powers." I have seldom seen a worse looking man, in a worse passion ; and, the

wind being favourable, we made that an excuse for epitomising the pleasures of a more prolonged meeting. We left the "half pay officer" in a tornado of wrath.

The natives were actively employed with the pole and bucket, raising water to irrigate the thirsty soil. They were well-proportioned figures, with large dark eyes; and, without exception, their teeth were regular and of ivory whiteness. They were much blacker than the fellahs of the Delta, and the women, adorned with ornaments, were frequently seen unmasked.

At Gébel Silsili, the ancient sand-stone quarries, the mountains reach quite down to the water's edge. In a little ramble through the vast excavations, we were surprised at the extent and regularity of the openings, and the freshness retained by the smooth cuts and chips of the quarry after the lapse of thousands of years! Deep avenues were opened in the rock from the banks of the river to the bowels of the mountain, where the quarries are perpendicularly cut down on all sides many hundred feet in depth, resembling the smooth sides of a well cut hay-mow.

We clambered up the high banks on the east side of the river to look at the fallen temples of Kom Ombo, anciently Ombos, whose enlightened citizens worshipped the crocodile-headed deity,* and waged a desperate conflict with the Tentyrites, on account of the contempt of the latter for the gods of the former. Many lives were lost, and, as is usual in "holy wars,"

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, Second Series, ii. 36.

much mischief was done, and no converts were made on either side.



A WOMAN OF UPPER EGYPT.

The view of these fine old ruins from the water is very imposing. They comprise the fragments of two temples and a lofty gateway. One wing only of

the latter is standing. It was reared upon a terrace overhanging the river, and the fallen wing strews the bank. The large temple had two entrances, and two sanctuaries; but the latter, and all the inner chambers are destroyed, and filled with sand. The portico is all that remains preserved. Fifteen of the massive columns are quite entire; they are twenty-two feet in circumference. Every part of this temple is painted and sculptured. The great doors, crowned with the winged globe, and opening into the sacred rooms, are choked with rubbish. Ponderous beams, shattered architraves, broken columns, and crumbled walls, lie in confusion amid the drifting sands, which will soon wrap them all in oblivion!

Another day's fair wind wafted us up to the cataracts. As we were hauling our little bark against the bank, we observed two boats with English flags lying a little distance up the stream. At first we supposed these, like some twenty others that we had seen with the same colours, were tinctured with British frigidity. But, as we touched the shore, the glorious banner of our own country was seen ascending the shrouds of one of them in honour of our arrival!

* * * * *

The other boat, a dark, rakish looking craft, was the bearer of Peter J. Scantletrash, an English bachelor, who was polishing himself by foreign travel; and, with the notable Paul (made famous in Stephens's Incidents of Travel), had thus far ascended the Nile. Scantletrash was a little, red peppery individual, with a shaved head, roundabout jacket, Turkish shoes, drab "inexpressibles," variegated vest, high London stock, gold breast-pin, quizzing-glass, and a large flower stuck in the button-hole of his coat. His nose was of the hawk-bill genus, and his eyes were dim and heavy. Unlike most of his countrymen, who pride themselves upon etiquette and *hauteur*, Scantletrash dashed eccentrically to the other extreme. He thought all matters of form quite useless, and endeavoured to be exceedingly affable. He came on board and introduced himself by calling "John Bull a demmed hog;" for his part he "saw no necessity for the cold forms of an introduction, and thought the better way was to throw off all restraint, and present one's self without ceremony."

Although a decided stickler in matters of birth and royalty, Scantletrash affected a generous contempt for the pretensions put forth by all "her Majesty's loyal subjects," who cannot trace their blood unequivocally to a source of legitimate nobility. That point satisfactorily settled, Scantletrash, cap in hand, hail, snow, rain, thunder, or lightning, come what may, all the same to him—he is ready to bow down and do homage to the divinity of the blood royal. But to all of doubtful lineage, he turned up his nose in

contemptuous scorn. He had a great deal to say about horses, hounds, hunting season, coal mines, and fishing tackle; and stoutly boasted of his gun privileges upon the grounds of certain noblemen in the north of England, and his grouse shooting upon the Highland heaths. He said: "I and Paul get on famously. Paul knows that I can swear as hard as he; and when he gets knocked up with the cramp, of which he invariably thinks he is going to die, I stand cursing and swearing over him, until he gets vexed and goes about his business as well as ever!"

Scantletrash, loquaciously following up his attentions, obligingly gave himself an invitation to be one of our party in an excursion to the island of Elephantine. We crossed over in a little clam-shell boat, navigated by a three-fingered, clotheless patriarch; who, for aught we knew, might have been a ferryman in the days of Moses. He certainly was the oldest looking man I ever saw; and unless he gets drowned, or comes to some untimely end, he may live in the delightful climate of Upper Egypt for many long years.

Elephantine, once adorned with temples, quays, and other public edifices,* presented to us a scene of perfect desolation. The ground was strewed with broken pottery, over which a noisy crowd of naked Nubians were poring in quest of bronze images and other relics. As soon as we landed, they gave up their "scientific research," and fell upon us with a

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 464.

most clamorous demand for *buckshish*. They greatly annoyed Mr. Scantletrash, who threw stones at them, and called lustily for Paul to "come and beat their brains out!" That celebrated dragoman, understanding the natives and his master, gave both a wide berth, and kept at a distance that favoured the belief of his ignorance of what was going on. Scantletrash soon abandoned the charms of the "Flowery Island," and went to his dinner and grog.

We remained to look at the old Roman quay, which is still preserved. It stands high above the water at low Nile, and is about a hundred feet in length. Near the quay, were slight remains of a small temple, and a shockingly mutilated colossal statue. The temple was dedicated to Kneph, who presided over the inundation, and received the adoration of the Elephantines. It was erected by Amunoph III., 1430 B. C.* The Nileometer is yet nearly entire. This was a strong military depôt during the Persian, Greek, and Roman domination over Egypt; and it is not improbable that the Pharaohs availed themselves of the natural advantage of the position for a similar establishment.

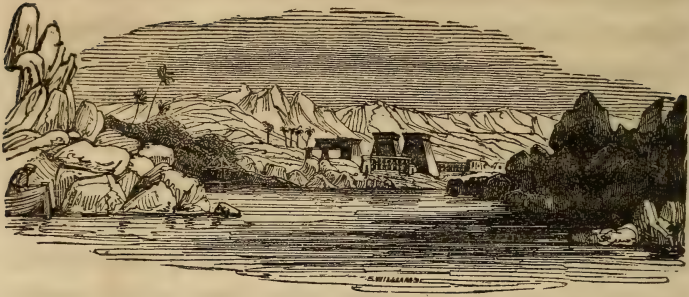
E'Souan is in latitude $24^{\circ}, 5', 30''$. It is shaded by palm-groves on one side, and looks out upon the desert on the other. The ruins of ancient Syene are conspicuous a short distance to the south, on an elevated swell overlooking the cataracts, the island of Philæ, Elephantine, and the desert.

In the mountains, a little to the east, are the fa-

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 461.

mous granite quarries, whence were taken the obelisks and colossal statues to adorn Thebes, Memphis, Heliopolis, and other Egyptian cities. There is an unfinished obelisk, partly covered with sand, lying in the quarries, which is ninety feet long and ten feet square. The appearance of these ancient excavations is such, as in any other country would indicate that the work had been but recently suspended, though thousands of years may have rolled away since the sound of the hammer has ceased to vibrate through the vacant and desolate cliffs. The scars of the chisel, drill, and wedges are distinctly visible, and the chips and scattered scales of rock exhibit all the freshness of new wrought quarries.

We found the bazar of E'Souan crowded with ragged, lazy, lousy men, filthy women, and squalid children. A slight examination sufficed; and when we returned to the boat, it was surrounded by a dense mass of indelicately attired *individuals*, endeavouring to sell their baskets, knives, spears, ostrich-eggs, old coins, bronze images, shells, chickens, shields, corbashes, sheep, milk, bread, eggs, and dates. It was a regular fair; and Johnny, our old servant, being the only purchaser, prices had ranged uncommonly low.



VIEW OF THE RUINS AND VICINITY OF PHILÆ.

CHAPTER XLI.

Excursion to the Island of Philæ. — Singular Taste of Mr Scantletrash. — Temple of Isis. — Tomb of Osiris. — Philæ consecrated to their Worship. — Novel Mode of navigating the Nile. — Cataracts. — Apostacy of the Cook. — Serious Predicament, and overwhelming Effect of Egyptian Corn-laws. — Departure from E'Souan. — Temple of Edfoo. — Tombs of El Kab.

IN an excursion to the island of Philæ, we rode over the site of Syene. Considerable portions of the old walls are yet to be seen; though they are broken down in some places, and in others covered with sand. The walls, like the houses, are constructed of sun-dried brick.

Descending from the picturesque site of the ancient city, we traversed a vast cemetery, extending far into the desert, and profusely strewed with the faded harvest of death. Leaving the cemetery, we entered a broad vale, with high granite ledges on either hand, through which the ancient Egyptians transported

their obelisks and other ponderous masses of granite from the quarries to the Nile. The peculiar features of the scenery indicate that the Nile itself may have flowed through that avenue, and roared amid the huge and craggy rocks jumbled together there in impressive confusion. Passing two wretched villages, we were again upon the borders of the river. Here we dismissed our cavalry, and were ferried over the river to the green-fringed island.

Mr. Scantletrash, who, with Paul, joined us as we were emerging from the palm-groves of E'Souan, made commendable exertions to render himself excessively entertaining. He was badly mounted, and his saddle galled both him and his donkey, between whom there appeared to be a community of feeling. He related many apocryphal tales of his adventures with certain English noblemen; boasted of *their* enormous revenues, and the liberality of *their* expenditures; spoke eloquently of "her Majesty's stag hounds;" informed us of the quality and quantity of wine he was accustomed to take at his dinner; dilated upon the important advantages of being a member of some of the "clubs" of London; dwelt fervently upon "marriage settlements," "three per cents.," "life annuities," "bank shares," "India bonds," and "exchequer bills;" expatiated upon country-seats, hedge-rows, fish-ponds, and fashionable tailors; alluded to high betting, and heavy winnings; spoke enthusiastically of government patronage, pensions, and church-livings; admired the corn-laws, window-tax, and church-rates; deprecated all reforms; thought it best to let well alone, and

wanted to wring every radical's neck in Christendom. These were some of the topics upon which Mr. Scantletrash discoursed by the way ; and, notwithstanding his professed passion for every thing "odd and extraordinary," we had not been on the beautiful island of Philæ half an hour, when he "saw nothing to admire among the 'nasty rubbish,' and did not care how soon he returned to his boat." Nor should we have regretted his departure ; but Paul, who was an enthusiastic admirer of the antique, felt scandalized at the total absence of taste for things of this kind exhibited by his master. He had great difficulty in amusing him ; but fortunately hit upon the happy expedient of recording their names upon the temples. This was a pleasing task, upon which Mr. Scantletrash entered with a becoming energy. Paul was provided with an old chisel and hammer ; and, after several attempts, they were enabled to cut their names very well. At first, Paul would dig his name into the face of sculptured walls or painted columns, at some distance apart from that of his master ; but they had not been long engaged, when he set his name, by way of endorsement, directly under that of Mr. Scantletrash, with the additional word "dragoman" affixed.

The island of Philæ, situated a short distance above the cataracts, exhibits one of the most agreeable and impressive landscape scenes that I have ever witnessed. Encircled by the eddying rush of the Nile, and overlooked by wild and lofty ledges, its own green banks and spreading trees adorn the time-worn ruins of its ancient glory. It is nearly surrounded by

a high, well-preserved wall, and its desolated temples, beautiful even in ruin, declare its former magnificence. This was the scene of the sacred and pompous worship of Isis and Osiris, "the greatest of all the gods."* Divine honours were universally paid to these deities throughout Egypt;† but this spot was particularly consecrated to their service. It was esteemed so sacred, that "no one was permitted to visit the holy island without express permission."‡ Here were celebrated "the great mysteries;" and at an appointed time, the tomb of Osiris was visited by the priests in solemn procession, and crowned with flowers.§ Diodorus says, none but priests were allowed to visit the island.|| The sepulchre of Osiris, says the same author, "was religiously revered by all the priests of Egypt. Osiris was worshipped at Philæ under the figure of the Ethiopian hawk."¶ "Isis was represented in her statues under the form of a woman with horns.** . . . Her festivals were magnificent, and celebrated with all the pomp which religion and superstition could invent."††

The temple of Isis, supposed to occupy the site of one destroyed by the Persians, is the largest and most splendid ruin on the island. "It was commenced," says Wilkinson, "by Ptolemy Philadelphus and Arsinoë."‡‡ The principal entrance is through an oblong area two hundred and forty feet in length, hav-

* Herod. ii. 40, 86. † Ibid. ii. 42.

‡ Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, Second Series, i. 345. § Ibid. i. 345.

|| Diod. i. 23. ¶ Herod. ii. 66: note.

** Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, Second Series, i. 381. †† Ibid. i. 385.

‡‡ Wilkinson's Thebes, 466.

ing colonnades on either side, supported by forty-six columns in front and a dead wall in the rear, with a handsome entablature. The first propylon, in the form of two pyramidal towers, rises from a base of one hundred and twenty-five feet by thirty, to the height of seventy feet, and is adorned with colossal figures. The principal portal, ornamented with sculptured hieroglyphics, opens upon a grand court with side corridors, and terminates with a propylon, corresponding in size to that already described, though more profusely decorated.

Here the French army recorded the event of their arrival at the cataracts. The names of the commanders are particularized,—an excusable piece of vanity, considering the circumstances; but the ten thousand other names that, like blots, disfigure these noble ruins, as well as almost all others in the old world, “are damned to everlasting fame.”

Passing the second propylon, we entered a beautiful portico, remarkable for its light and elegant appearance. The columns were surmounted with varied and flowing capitals. Carved hieroglyphs, and deified figures, painted in colours of surpassing freshness, adorned this and every part of the rooms of the temple. Traversing four elaborately adorned rooms, we entered a fifth, which was still more beautiful. This was the sanctuary of the temple. On all sides, the mysterious characters of the Egyptians were profusely spread, and mingled with the symbolical figures of their idolatrous worship. These were invariably

painted; and the colours, though laid thousands of years ago, still retain a vivid brightness and beauty.

In the sculptures of a small retired chamber, lying nearly over the western adytum, "the mysterious history of Osiris is curiously illustrated . . . His passage from this life to a future state is indicated by the usual attendance of the deities and genii, who presided over the funeral rites of ordinary mortals."*

On the walls of a chapel on the left of the grand court, the figure of a hawk is conspicuously sculptured; having on the right the figures in outline of a man and woman kneeling at the foot of a pole, upon which a serpent entwines his hideous length, and looks down from the summit upon the prostrate forms beneath. On the left, another figure of the serpent is seen ascending a similar elevation.

It were vain to attempt a description of the chambers, corridors, passage-ways, subterraneous and other apartments, and the varied and peculiar embellishment of this magnificent erection, which is nearly four hundred and forty feet in length, and more than a hundred in width.

On the eastern side of the island, reared upon a broad terrace, substantially supported by a massive wall, stands the tomb of Osiris. This is adorned with chastely-wrought columns.

Ruins of different dates and descriptions are strewn in all directions, and are encumbered with the dunghills and rubbish of the Arabs.

After lunching in the temple of Isis, we embarked

* Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, Second Series, i. 189.

on board an old boat, navigated by two aged men, and descended the river. Two Nubian lads, ten or twelve years of age, who had followed us all day, stripping off their rags and fastening them upon their heads, embarked upon a small log, and descended the stream with us. They sat upon the stick, which was about six feet in length and six or seven inches in diameter; and, extending their feet in front, with their legs close to the log, they used their hands for oars, and easily kept up with the boat, shouting all the way for *buckshish*. Quitting their log at the landing, they ran down the borders of the stream, and, with some twenty of their countrymen, who were awaiting our arrival, leaped into the Nile, and came dancing down the most rapid part of the cataracts! The scene was animated, and will serve to illustrate in some degree the force and danger of these rapids. The cataracts present an agreeable picture; but it is only by mere courtesy that the stiff current, which rushes around the rocky isles in this place, is called a *cataract*. We saw a boat ascending, while we were there, with the aid of sails alone!

Fatigue and excitement had stirred up within us a *gnawing* propensity. We began to draw largely in anticipation upon the deliciousness of the dinner which "Johnny" was to prepare against our return.

Johnny was an Egyptian, a son of the *faithful*, and, up to this memorable day, so far as we knew, he had conducted himself like a *faithful* son. He had served in an English kitchen, and was with Wellington in the Peninsular War. Johnny had conducted himself

so well in the upward voyage, that we thought him, what is rarely to be found, an honest, faithful, sober Egyptian. This day we had reckoned largely upon his abilities, and we looked with pleasing anticipations to the result of his culinary art, as well as to the tidy manner in which every thing was to be arranged for our descent of the Nile. Cheered by agreeable reflections, we hastened onward through the heat and dust; but imagine our surprise on drawing near the boat, to find it surrounded by half the inhabitants of E'Souan, shouting in wild uproar.

Johnny, instead of getting our dinner, had got drunk! He was stupidly reeling about the deck, endeavouring to close a bargain for a Nubian girl's necklace. She was bawling at the top of her voice, encircled by some twenty of her companions, who were equally clamorous in their efforts to sell their trinkets. Johnny was greatly perplexed; the competition was too ardent for the unsettled state of his mind. At last, deeming himself insulted by some of the men, he staggered out with clinched fists, struck a convulsive blow upon the vacant wind, and pitched down into the sand. Alas! poor Johnny. He was picked up by the sailors, and stowed away in a state of insensibility.

We were now made acquainted with the wretched condition of our affairs. The rais had the key to our stores; one of the sailors had been arrested, and most of the others were revelling about town. Johnny, by way of augmenting our supplies, had purchased a little black lamb, so thin and sickly that it could

scarcely stand alone. It braced itself against the side of the boat, and was bleating, as with its last breath, to be set on shore. Every thing on board was in confusion; and the two dollars' worth of bread which Johnny had purchased, being brought on board, added to our embarrassment. Basket full after basket full came tumbling in upon us until we were literally overwhelmed with the loaves. We told the baker to bring no more; else, for aught I know, they would have sunk our boat with "the staff of life." This we attributed to the ruinous effect of the "corn laws" of the "blood-thirsty old Pacha." But we had no time to waste upon the ruler of Egypt; the donkey-boys set up a deafening shout for their wages; a thousand voices rang through our ears from those desirous to dispose of their javelins, spears, knives, shields, and baskets; the women, not a whit behind the men in their vociferations, were ardent in their efforts to strike a bargain, though they had little to dispose of except the scanty rags upon their backs. The "captain of the port," a sombre-looking functionary of the government, observing our perplexity, obligingly came forward, and swept his spear around, scattering the crowd right and left, like the assets of the Bank of the United States. We had scarcely liquidated his demand of twenty paras (about two and a half cents) for this "official act," when our tormentors returned again, as dense, dirty, and noisy as ever.

The wind blew *up* stream, and we wanted to go *down*; one man was wrested from us, and most of the others were missing; the very deuse reigned with-

in and without ; and a more hungry, unhappy party has rarely taken leave of the cataracts, than ours, when we swung the boat into the stream. We floated down for some time in all the disorder of a wreck ; and we were not a mile from E'Souan when we stuck fast in a sand-bar ! After much talking and lifting, we were again afloat ; and began to clear away the bread and other things, which had been tumbled on board during the day. This done, we mustered strength and culinary skill sufficient to get a cup of tea, and retired.

It was not long, however, before we were aroused by the boat's being run against the bank, and by the din of female voices. We were informed that the sailor, reputed to have been arrested, was in a house near by, under guard. Mr. J—— went out to the village, found the man under keepers, and was requested to pay thirty piasters for his release ; but Mr. J——, suspecting the whole affair to be a *ruse* to extort this pitiful sum from us, forcibly took the *soi-disant* prisoner from the hands of the authorities, and marched him on board the boat.

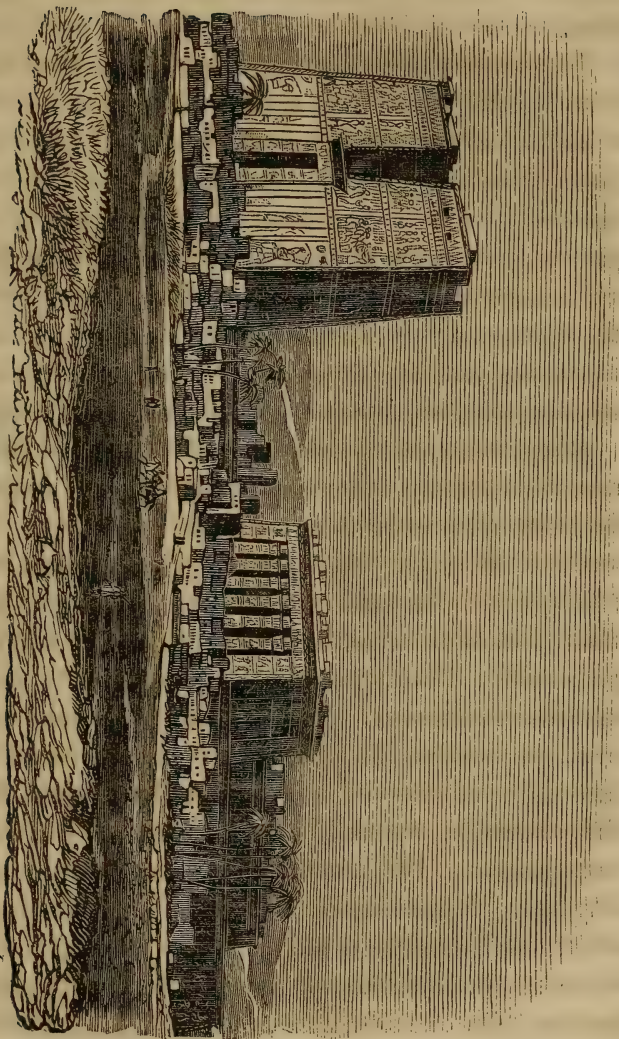
The next morning, as the sun rose upon the unruffled bosom of the Nile, we were gliding past the noble and impressive ruins of Kom Ombos. Johnny was up with the peep of day, and went about his business ; but he looked sad, and was never the same servant afterward. Another day, and we were at Edfoo, the ancient Apollinopolis Magna. It is on the Libyan side, about a mile from the Nile, and contains three thousand Arabs, who, for filth and vermin,

may successfully vie with the wretched inhabitants of any part of Egypt.

Entering the village, we passed a crowd of wailing women, with dishevelled hair, grouped round the door of a man who had just died. As we drew near, the vehemence of their music and mourning wondrously increased ; but when we passed by, they threw off the bitterness of their grief, abandoned their instruments and tears, and set up a clamorous demand for *buckshish!*

The temple of Edfoo, though half enveloped in filth, is an imposing structure. The entrance is through a magnificent gateway two hundred feet long, thirty feet thick, and one hundred in height. It was constructed of sand-stone from the quarries of G ebel Silsili, and is adorned on all sides with sculpture. This gateway opens upon an area two hundred feet in length and a hundred and twenty-five in width ; a sculptured corridor extends along the sides, supported by a massive wall, which is continued round the temple. Traversing the court, now converted into a granary of the Pacha, we approached the portico, which is a hundred and eight feet by forty, and supported by columns twenty feet in circumference. These are crowned with sculptured capitals thirty-seven feet in circumference. Every part of the temple and corridor was covered with hieroglyphics and deified figures. The great door being choked up with rubbish, we could only enter through a small aperture in the roof. We found quite a village on top of the temple : Arabs, goats, sheep, calves, hens,

TEMPLE OF EDFOO.



dogs, and dirt were there mingled in rank confusion.

We entered one of the rookeries, and descended with lighted torches, by a small dark hole, into the rooms of the temple. Crawling upon our hands and knees from one apartment to another, we found the interior filled with dirt almost to the ceiling. Every part was covered with hieroglyphics, which were fresh and unimpaired. The Arabs rushed in after us till there was scarcely room to move round; the air was close, and the dust intolerable. When we drew ourselves out of this dust-hole, we were half suffocated.

After examining the more imperfect ruins of another small temple, we returned to the boat, and dropped down the river to El Kab, anciently Eilethyas. The walls of this city, four miles in circuit, were constructed with the mud of the Nile. They are about thirty feet thick at the base, thirty in height, and well preserved. The ruins of the ancient city afforded us little amusement. Ascending the mountain, however, we found its sides perforated with tombs. They have all been violated, and have suffered much from the "scientific research" or Vandalism of European antiquarians. We penetrated one to the distance of fifty feet. It was hewn in the rock, twelve feet in width, and the same in height. The paintings on the walls exhibit a variety of domestic and agricultural scenes. On one side, a lady and gentleman entertain a party of friends: musicians are introduced to enliven the scene. On the opposite wall, various implements of husbandry are represented. Many of

these are similar to those seen in the hands of the Egyptians at the present day. Scribes are taking account of the flocks and herds. The wine-press is also represented, together with fishing and fowling scenes, ploughing, sowing, reaping, treading out, winnowing, measuring, and housing the grain. Other tombs are similarly decorated, and similarly despoiled and disfigured by the charcoal and chiselled names of visitors.

Leaving the plains of El Kab, we resumed our boat, and the next morning were at Esneh, where we touched for a slight reinspection of the temple, and then continued on to Thebes.'



A WOMAN EMBRACING AND WEeping BEFORE HER HUSBAND'S MUMMY.

CHAPTER XLII.

Palace-Temple of Remeses the Great. — His Conquests and Progeny. — Statue of Remeses the Great. — Vocal Memnon. — Shrine of Latona at Butos. — Ruined Temples of Médénet Háboo.

WE landed on the western bank of the river, and rode across the plain to the "Memnonium." This was the palace-temple of "Remeses the Great," or "Sesostris," a Pharaoh who had a long and prosperous reign in what is called the "Augustan age of Egypt." Ascending the throne 1355 years B. C.,* he triumphantly carried his arms through Asia, and passed into Europe.† Diodorus represents his conquests as being more extensive than those of Alexander. He says: "Sesostris not only invaded those nations which the Macedonian afterward subdued, but likewise those he never set foot upon. He passed the river Ganges, and pierced through all India to the Main Ocean."‡ Loaded with the spoils of his enemies, he returned to Egypt, fired with an ambitious desire "to leave behind him eternal monuments of his memory."§ This temple is one of those monuments;

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, i. 48.

† Diod. i. 59.

† Herod. ii. 102–110.

§ Ibid. i. 60.

“which,” says Wilkinson, “for symmetry of architecture, and elegance of sculpture, can vie with any other monument of Egyptian art.”* The names and figures of his “twenty-three sons and three daughters are introduced in the Memnonium.”†

The entrance to this splendid edifice was through a propylon, constructed of stone, two hundred and twelve feet in length, thirty in width, and rising in the form of two pyramidal towers to the height of eighty feet. This is now in ruins; though the battle-scenes of Sesostris, sculptured on the west side, are in part preserved. In the first court, which is two hundred and twelve feet by one hundred, are the broken fragments of the statue of Remeses the Great. This statue was sculptured from an entire piece of granite, taken from the quarries of Syene, one hundred and thirty-eight miles from Thebes, and weighed eight hundred and eighty-nine tons!‡ It measured from the shoulder to the elbow twelve feet ten inches; twenty-two feet four inches across the shoulders, and fourteen feet four inches from the neck to the elbow. Its foot was eleven feet in length, and four feet ten inches in breadth.§ It sat upon a pedestal formed of a single block of granite twenty-nine feet long, seventeen wide, and it is now nine feet above the accumulated rubbish. The desolating hand of invasion threw down this mighty column and shivered it in ruins!

The second court was a hundred and seventy feet by a hundred and forty, and adorned on all sides with

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 10. † Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, i. 72.

‡ Ibid. iii. 330.

§ Wilkinson's Thebes, 10; note.

columns and "Osiride pillars;" — eight of the latter, with folded arms, are holding in their hands the sacred emblems of Egyptian worship.

Three flights of steps conduct from the court to a corridor of ten massive columns, where stood two other statues of Sesostris. Three entrances open into the grand hall, whose roof, composed of massive blocks of sand-stone, was sustained by forty-eight columns, all beautified with elaborately-wrought capitals; which, together with the ceiling and doorways, were covered with hieroglyphs. This hall was about a hundred and thirty-three by one hundred feet, and was succeeded by several other chambers, which are nearly all destroyed. The remains of this sumptuous and imposing structure are strewed over an elevated site, looking off upon the plains of Thebes and the Arabian mountains. In the rear, are the tomb-perforated hills of Libya; on the right, are the ruins of the temple of Médénet Háboo; on the left, those of Gournoo; while those of the palace-temple of Luqsor are on the opposite side of the river, bearing a little to the south, with the incomparable ruins of Karnak directly in front. Thus the principal temples of Thebes, though far apart, were distinctly in view of each other; and the shattered sphinxes, that are seen obtruding above the deposits of the Nile, indicate that in Thebes' proud and palmy days, broad avenues, lined with imposing statues, extended from one to the other of these magnificent temples throughout their entire circuit. Were this the case, no one can doubt the impressive effect of the religious ceremonial — when, in



Drawn by G. Balfour & A. W. Frith; Engraved by T. Agnew & Sons.

E G Y P T.
The Temple and broken Statues of Memnon, Thebes.

solemn processions, the numerous priesthood were moving from temple to temple, in all the glitter of their sacred robes, accompanied by music, banners, and every imaginable device that could lend brilliancy to the scene or awe to the spectacle !

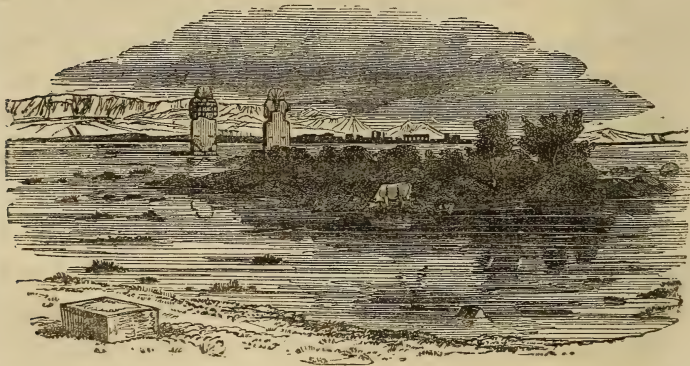
However this may have been, all is silent now, and sad ; and little remains to declare the ancient glory of Thebes, except the ruined temples and violated tombs, and a few colossal statues that seem to mourn over the desolation of the city they were reared to adorn. Two of these, bruised and broken by the hand of man, and defiled by the birds of the air, sit lonely in the cultivated plains. These are the statues of Amunoph III., and were part of a double line of colossi that adorned the *dromos* conducting to a temple erected by that monarch, who reigned 1430 B. C.*

These statues are forty-seven feet in height, a little more than eighteen feet across the shoulders, sixteen feet and a half from the shoulder to the elbow, ten feet and a half from the crown of the head to the shoulder, about eighteen feet from the elbow to the tip of the fingers, nearly twenty feet from the top of the knee to the sole of the foot, and ten feet and a half from the heel to the extremity of the toes ! Each sits upon a sand-stone pedestal thirty-two feet long, eighteen wide, and twelve or thirteen feet thick, making their total altitude about sixty feet ! They were constructed of entire blocks of coarse grit-stone, a material not known within several days' journey of Thebes ;† and each contained eleven thousand five

* Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, i. 47. ; Second Series do. i. 109.

† Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, iii. 329 ; and his Thebes, 34.

hundred cubic feet. These, and the broken statue at the Memnonium, are some of the ponderous blocks of stone which the Egyptians transported from one extremity of the country to the other; and, though immense, they are by no means the largest which they were accustomed to handle—for at Butos, near the Sébennitic mouth of the Nile, the shrine of the goddess Latona, formed of one solid stone of equal height, breadth, and thickness, measured on each side sixty feet!* This, “supposing the walls to have been only six feet thick, must have weighed upward of five thousand tons!”† How such stupendous masses of granite were safely conveyed over a space of many hundred miles, is a question that may perplex, in its solution, the most daring engineers of “*this enlightened age*”



THE TWO COLOSSI ON THE PLAIN OF THEBES, WITH THE RUINS OF LUQSOR IN THE DISTANCE, DURING THE INUNDATION. THE STATUE ON THE LEFT IS THE VOCAL MEMNON.

One of the sitting colossi in the plain of Thebes is the reputed “*Vocal Memnon.*” It was broken off

* Herod. ii. 155.

† Wilkinson’s Ancient Egyptians, iii. 331.

near the middle by the shock of an earthquake, and was restored by horizontal layers of sand-stone. Its feet and legs are thickly engraved with the records of its vocal powers; and great names of Greece and Rome bear testimony to its audible greetings. Memnon, however, is no longer but a mock of his former self! His voice is mute, his eyes are dimmed, and all the fore part of the head has disappeared at the Vandal touch of man! Yet no one can look upon this mangled image, untouched with pity at its ruin, or unmoved with sorrow for the fate of its founder, whose death-slumbers have been violated, and his powdered dust scattered to the winds of heaven!

Passing the fallen fragments of several other colossi, and the remains of the demolished temple in the rear, we continued on until we came to the ruins of Medénet Háboo. Here, half entombed by the rude huts of modern erection, is the sublime wreck of temples and palaces that once vied in splendour with any other in Egypt. Here was one of the *four* temples of Thebes, which, we are assured by Diodorus, were "greatly to be admired for grandeur and beauty."* One of the other *three* is the temple of Luqsor, facing this, on the opposite side of the river. The others are the temple of Karnak and the Memnonium.† I shall forbear any attempt at a *detailed* description of these ruined piles; a task which it is not easy to accomplish.

The great palace-temple‡ of Remeses III., who reigned 1235 years B. C.,§ is the most conspicuous

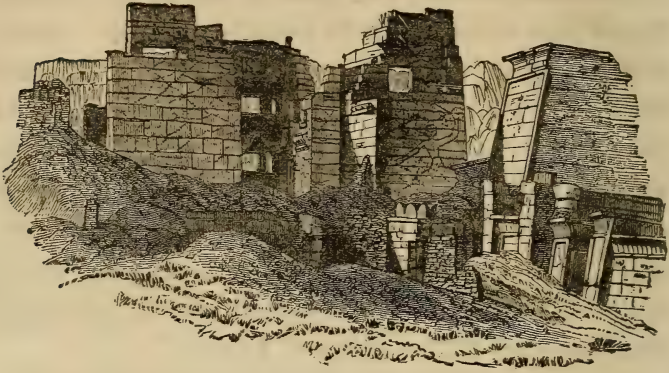
* Diod. i. 52.

† Wilkinson's Thebes, 41.

‡ Ibid. 50.

§ Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, i. 76.

among the ruins of Medeenet Haboo, and the most elaborately embellished. Two lodges flank the sides of the spacious entrance conducting to the pavilion



PAVILION OF REMESES III. AT MEDEENET HABOO.

of the King. Several of the royal chambers yet remain in a state of tolerable preservation, and are adorned with representations of the scenes of the private life of the Pharaoh. Passing from the pavilion over the dromos of two hundred and sixty-five feet, the first court of the temple, a hundred and thirty-five feet by one hundred, with massive colonnades on either side, is entered by a lofty pyramidal gateway, two hundred feet long, and twenty-nine thick. At the opposite end of the court, another gateway, of similar form and size, rises to a corresponding height. Both sides of each of the propylons, and every part of the colonnades, are adorned with historical delineations, deeply sculptured and vividly coloured. The second court is even more splendid and spacious than the first, and the doorway of red gran-

ite, through which it is entered, is truly superb. The hieroglyphics on its sides are engraved to the depth of two or three inches. The height of this court, "from the pavement to the cornice, is thirty-nine feet. It is surrounded by an interior peristyle, whose east and west sides are supported by five massive columns, the south by a row of Osiride pillars, and the north by a similar number, behind which is an elegant corridor of circular columns, whose effect is unequalled by any other in Thebes."* The circular columns, though only twenty-four feet high, are nearly twenty-three feet in circumference; which, with their crowning capitals, the bold and massive entablature, the ponderous beams and ceiling of the corridor, and the close wall of the court, were all embellished with hieroglyphical sculpture.

The painting, too, was profuse in all directions; and, in many parts, preserved with astonishing freshness. The hand of mutilation has wantonly touched the adornments of this splendid court; and the Christians, who, previous to the Saracen conquest, erected a place of worship here, covered the sculptures with stucco. This, however, instead of destroying, was the means of preserving the interesting delineations upon this part of the building; and many striking battle-scenes and ceremonial groups are still exhibited in pristine spirit and beauty.

Wilkinson says: "If the sculptures of the areas arrest the attention of the antiquary or excite the admiration of the traveller, those of the exterior of this

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 60.

building are no less interesting in an historical point of view.”*

The main body of this temple, together with the rooms of one of scarcely less dimensions, a little further to the north, is filled up with the huts and rubbish of the Copts, who, in the days of the empire, resided here in considerable numbers.

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 68.



OFFERINGS TO THE DEAD IN PRESENCE OF THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED.

CHAPTER XLIII.

Excursion to the "Tombs of the Kings." — Annoyance of the Relic-venders. — Indefatigable Arab and his Jar. — Tomb of Osirei, violated and robbed by Belzoni. — Belzoni's Dinner to his English Friends in the Grave of Pharaoh. — Tomb of the Harper. — The oldest Tomb of the Kings. — Temple of Gournoo. — Moonlight View of Karnak.

I WILL not detain the reader with an account of our long rambles among the sepulchres of the vast Necropolis of Thebes, and our explorations of their deep, dark, devious, and violated chambers; the dust and mangled remains of whose sacred deposits strew the rocky sides of the mountain, while the gorgeous tombs from whence they have been sacrilegiously thrust, are now the polluted abodes of the wretched Arabs of Thebes. I will only crave indulgence for some account of a single day's excursion among the incomparable "Tombs of the Kings," and will then resume our descent of the Nile.

At the dawn of day, we were aroused by a multitude of the natives, crowding along the banks, with horses, donkeys, and the relics of the tombs. We put ourselves under the direction of an Egyptian guide, and went on shore. Here we were so hemmed in

on all sides by the resurrectionists, that it was almost impossible to advance a single step. In addition to all sorts of mummies and minute fragments of each, from the head of a king to the tail of a cat, there was a great variety of images, rings, beads, buckles, and bandages on sale; and a robber-visaged, clotheless Arab assailed me with an old *jar*, which he said I *must* purchase. I did not fancy it, and declined this preference, although I had little doubt of his assertion that "it was taken from one of the oldest tombs in Thebes."

In order to clear our skirts of these relic-venders, we bought a quantity of their commodities, ere the thought came into our minds that we were six thousand miles from home, and that it was a hundred chances to one that not an article of them all would ever reach the United States. This, however, would have been of little consequence, had the object in view been attained, for the whole cost only a mere trifle. But our situation became little less alarming than that of the fox in the fable; for we had no sooner bought one man's stock, than a hundred more rushed before us, more imperious and importunate than the last, to dispose of theirs. I had purchased the mummy of a hawk; Mr. J. had that of a sacred serpent; and my friend the doctor was importuned to purchase those of a cat and a buzzard;—and here again, furiously pressing forward, and filling the air with the deafening tones of his cracked voice, was the fiend-like object with his *jar*! It mattered little that I had told him a dozen times I would not pur-

chase it ;— he said no one else would buy it, and I *must* !

Rudely pressed on all sides, we could neither move forward nor backward, nor indeed could we stand where we were, for the crowd was momentarily increasing in confusion and density. To linger in indecision, was to subject ourselves to greater annoyance ; we therefore plied our canes and whips right and left, until we cleared our way to the muleteers. Here, again, we had difficulty. In their eagerness to serve us, the muleteers rushed up with their animals, and had well nigh trampled us under foot before we had time to select such of their quadrupeds as we desired. As I was taking my seat in the old Turkish saddle, who should again accost me but the indefatigable owner of the *jar* ? If I answered his importunity with a cut of my whip, he only vanished from one side of my horse to reappear immediately upon the other, just as smiling and eager as ever to dispose of his jar, which he again assured me I *must* purchase ! Fairly mounted, I put spurs to my horse, and left him and his companions to press their solicitations upon Mr. Scantletrash and Paul, who had just arrived.

Passing over the plain, we entered a winding gorge among the Libyan hills, and traversed the dry bed of a mountain-torrent. Mingled with vast quantities of curious flint-stone, we saw various petrified shells in considerable abundance. On either hand the rocky cliffs hung high and loosely over us ; the way was as lonely and silent as the grave. No spot, perhaps,

could be more appropriate for the quiet repose of man, when the active and busy scenes of life are over, and the sorrows and trials of this existence are exchanged for the long, silent slumbers of the tomb. Here no intrusive footstep trampled, no noise resounded through the sun-scorched vale, save the funeral dirge, and the mournful processions bearing the mummied bodies of the mighty dead, with pompous ceremonial, to their last abode ! Even now, little breaks upon the noiseless scene, except here and there the stranger's step, winding upward to the magnificent chambers of the dead, there to admire the splendour of the vacant tombs, — and, generally, to add fresh ravages to these despoiled and desecrated sanctuaries ! Alas ! how hard and heavily has the hand of the living pressed upon the bones and shelter of the dead !

Lingering slowly behind my companions, I mused pensively over this strange scene ; the brevity of man's existence ; the solemn sleep of death ; the joys of heaven ; the brightness of the Christian's hope ; the beauty of his religion contrasted with the dim perception of Egypt's Pharaohs, who dwelt in golden palaces through life, and at last lay down in sepulchres of living rock, deep in the mountain's bosom, vainly anticipating an undisturbed repose till their departed spirits should again return to reanimate their faded, fallen clay ! How different the sequel ! Like an unclean thing, the dust of Egypt's kings has been cast out and scattered to the winds ; their violated tombs despoiled of their glory ; and their shrouds and coffins conveyed to the extremities of the earth !

I was meditating upon these things, when I heard approaching footsteps. Imagine my surprise on looking round, to encounter an Arab, with a sepulchral figure and face, brandishing the mummied head of a man just from the tomb! He thrust it in my face, and clamorously desired me to purchase it. The teeth, exhibiting death's ghastly grin, were still firm in their sockets; the skin, dry and shrunken, was closely drawn over the bones and muscles of the face; the hair hung in matted clusters over the brow; one ear was smitten off, and the eyes were veiled in eternal darkness! The unexpected manner in which this relic of the tombs had obtruded upon my path, occasioned an involuntary shudder. I turned, half affrighted, from the disgusting spectacle; and who should haunt my vision then but the imperturbable Egyptian with the old *jar*! In the distance, I saw a crowd of his tomb-relic companions rapidly advancing. Flight, under such circumstances, appearing the better part of valour, I applied the broad shovel-stirrups to the horse's flanks, and left my besiegers to meditate new modes of attack.

On joining my friends, we rode leisurely on, gathering here and there a curious stone or a petrification, until we approached the abrupt and lofty barrier of limestone rock rising in front and on either side, declaring — "Thus far and no farther." We were now at the doors of the "Tombs of the Kings," which are excavated in the *living rock*, and extend, in various directions, far into the bosom of the mountains.

Furnished with blazing torches, we entered "the

tomb which, of all others, stands pre-eminently conspicuous as well for the beauty of its sculpture, as the state of its preservation.* It was discovered, violated, and robbed by Belzoni; and it has been despoiled by succeeding visiters, until nearly the whole palace-like sepulchre presents a picture of lamentable dilapidation.

This was the tomb of Osirei I.,† father of "Remeses the Great," who ascended the throne 1385 B. C. He extended the glory and dominion of Egypt by foreign conquest, and adorned her cities with magnificent edifices and sumptuous works of art.‡ He was the twelfth Pharaoh, in a direct line, from the "king who knew not Joseph," and reigned about two centuries after the birth of Moses.§

The entrance to his tomb is by an ample flight of stairs, conducting down through the solid rock to a depth of twenty-four feet. From the foot of the stairs, a passage, nineteen feet by eight, leads to a second staircase, similar to the first; and from these, a passage twenty-nine feet in length conducts to a chamber, twelve feet by fourteen. This room is adorned with representations of the offerings of Osirei, and opens into a second chamber, twenty-seven feet square, whose roof is supported by four square pillars, which have painted in vivid hues upon their sides the reception of the king by the deities after his death. This apartment is otherwise ornamented by various representations in a style of great elegance and sur-

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 101. † Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians, i. 48-62.

‡ Ibid. 62, 63. § Ibid. 47, 48.

prising freshness of colour. Descending a few steps, we entered another apartment of similar dimensions, supported by pillars in the centre. The ornamental figures of this room are apparently fresh from the hand of the draftsman, and untouched by the sculptor. They are, however, exceedingly interesting, and exhibit the taste and skill of an artist of high attainments. Descending another staircase, we entered a broad and beautiful passage-way, embellished with the funeral ceremonial of the deceased. This passage terminated by a few steps, which landed upon another corridor of equal extent, but surpassing the former in ornamental beauty. A vividly-painted room, seventeen feet by fourteen, succeeds, and communicates by a door through its inner wall with the grand hall, which is about twenty-seven feet square. The ceiling of this room is supported by two rows of pillars. Its walls are profusely spread with hieroglyphical sculpture, which, reflected by the glare of our torches, presented a scene of inconceivable brilliancy. Two lateral chambers, eight feet by ten, opened on either side, which are no less profuse in hieroglyphical adornment than the other apartments. The grand hall terminates in the saloon of the sarcophagus, a lofty and beautiful apartment, about thirty feet by twenty, with a vaulted roof, and decorated in a style of elegance worthy the conspicuous position it occupies. Here was once an alabaster sarcophagus of curious workmanship, which contained the mummy of the king. This was abstracted by Belzoni, who sold it to an English lord. Here, too, the

“scientific” violator of the dead gave a dinner to his English friends ; and the grave of Pharaoh loudly resounded with the bacchanalian shouts of its plunderers !

On the right of the saloon of the sarcophagus is a small room in an unfinished state ; and still deeper in the rock, there is a plain apartment, forty feet by eighteen, supported by four square pillars. On the left, there is another chamber, about twenty-three feet square, which is highly ornamented with hieroglyphical sculpture, and brilliantly painted.

The horizontal extent of this tomb is three hundred and twenty feet, and it is nearly a hundred feet in depth !* When Belzoni opened it, there was an inclined plane starting from the centre of the hall of the sarcophagus, with a staircase on either side, penetrating the rock to the distance of a hundred and fifty feet further, making the entire length of this catacomb four hundred and seventy feet ! The inclined passage is now entirely closed, and the tomb throughout exhibits the wanton Vandalism of man in its most reprehensible light.

As we emerged from this splendid work of Egyptian art, we were beset by a host of dusky resurrectionists, clamorously thrusting upon us their filched fragments of the dead. Heads, arms, legs, hair, teeth, grave-clothes, beads, and rings were comprised in this collection ; and the first article that met my eye was the old *jar* !

Our guides dashed among them, and cleared our

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 105.

way to the next tomb, which, though less gorgeously adorned, was in some respects still more impressive than the last. It extends into the rock by a gently inclined plane about three hundred and fifty feet. The passage-way, twelve feet in height, and adorned throughout with painted sculpture, conducts to the hall of the sarcophagus, whose vaulted roof is supported by massive columns. Here, thrown in broken fragments upon the floor, was the ruined coffin of the king! This chamber is about forty feet by thirty; and, together with the apartments opening in different directions, were all embellished with the sculptured and painted representations of the religious rites, ceremonies, and customs of the Egyptians; the whole, however, is in a state of deplorable ruin.

Once more we emerged into the bright sun and clear sky, which perpetually hang over these lonely mountains; but it was again to encounter the hideous mummy-dealers, who grouped round the entrance of the tomb, dense, dark, and devilish as the fallen angels. Among them was my omnipresent friend with the magic *jar*!

The next tomb we entered, called the Harper's, is remarkable for its length and decorations. It reaches through an ample and lofty passage-way into the rock to the distance of four hundred and five feet! Side rooms, adorned with painted sculpture, open on either hand throughout its entire length. At the extremity of the passage-way, the excavation enlarges into a vaulted chamber, about forty feet by twenty-five. Here was once the sarcophagus of the king; but an

English consul* swept it of its dust and sent it to the British Museum.

Besides the deified images and symbolical figures usual in the mystical ceremonies of the Egyptians, the scenes represented upon this tomb embrace those of agriculture, the navigation of the Nile, culinary operations, warlike implements, and those of husbandry. One room exhibits a variety of furniture, evincing an elegance of form, finish, and richness indicative of wealth, civilization, and refined taste. This tomb has long been exposed to the Vandal crush of man; and destructive are the blows received upon its beauteous walls.

Leaving the chambers of this grotto-palace, and pushing through the relic-venders at the door, we entered another which penetrated the rock to the distance of three hundred and sixty-three feet; but, with the exception of the representation of some chairs, couches, boxes, mirrors, vases, necklaces, arms, and fans, there was nothing to detain us.

We came out again, and passing in review before the resurrectionists, we penetrated the rock through the passage-way of another tomb to the distance of two hundred and eighteen feet. In the vaulted chamber of the king are the shattered remains of his granite sarcophagus, which was eleven feet six inches by seven, and nearly ten feet in height! The robbers who burst in and despoiled the tomb, not being able to raise the lid of the sarcophagus, dashed in its sides and ruined it for ever. Near this there are two other

* The tomb-relic Salt. Wilkinson's Thebes, 144.

tombs of considerable interest and elegance. One is two hundred and forty-three feet in extent, and the other is a hundred and thirty-two: both are decorated with hieroglyphical sculpture and painting. Those, however, which I have enumerated, comprise but a small part of the royal catacombs.

The last which we entered is supposed to be the oldest of all the "Tombs of the Kings." Its entrance is nearly closed; but, with difficulty, we could crowd our bodies through the constrained aperture. None of our party were inclined to attempt the exploration except Mr. J. and myself. And I must confess, as I slid down the rapid and deep descent, and looked back upon the pile of loose stones, threatening, at the removal of the least rubbish at the bottom, to rush down upon us and entirely close the grotto, that the scene appeared "rather pokerish." I did not much fancy the idea of being buried alive, even in Pharaoh's tomb.

Carefully feeling our way down to the distance of two hundred feet, we came to the vaulted chamber of the sarcophagus, ornamented with frescoes, and containing the violated coffin. Besides this, there was little to be seen, and the chambers were filled with loose stones. Mr. J. selected a bone as a memento, but whether it was that of a king or a peasant, we did not stop to determine, but hastened to join our companions at the entrance of the tomb, where I met a warm reception from my inexorable friend with the *jar*, and found our party more thoughtful about the good things of this life, than regardful of the im-

portant provision for the next. We were all much fatigued, and as hungry as cormorants.

Quitting this lonely and secluded spot, we soon came out upon the cheerful plains of Thebes. We passed the ruined temple of Gournoo, the great gateway of which is demolished; but the columns, facade, grand hall, and some of the rooms are yet preserved. The sculpture and paintings are badly mutilated. We were, however, too much fatigued to remain long under a blazing sun, with the thermometer at 80° ; and, after again encountering my man of the *jar*, who, together with the black host of his companions, had by this time come up, we rode down to the boat.

While we were sitting under the awning after dinner, a silky breeze gently rippled the face of the Nile, and the high bank over our heads was black with a dense crowd of relic-men. It was now proposed to examine their trinkets; peradventure we might find something worth carrying away. On being informed that we would treat with them one by one in rotation, and give all in turn a chance, they jumped from the bank as one man, and assailed the boat like so many pirates. The uproar was indescribable; all determined to be first, and they were so in fact. The most conspicuous of them all was the fellow with the old *jar*! He resolved that I should no longer escape. This Arab had haunted me with his jar from daylight in the morning until that hour; and, though refused a hundred times, and cuffed, kicked, and stoned by the guides at the door of every tomb we entered, he had not given me up! What was to be done!—

Why, lest the creature should follow me through the desert to the Holy Land, Europe, across the Atlantic, and, jar in hand, renew his importunities with me in the streets of New York, I concluded the better way was to purchase his JAR, and get it out of my sight!

As the sun went down, leaving his golden tints upon the deep blue sky, the moon, half rounded, assumed the helm of night, and mingled its mellow beams with the stars of heaven. Hills, plains, mountains, river, temples, and statues, all assumed new beauty, and a peculiar and inexpressible grandeur rested upon the scene. At this delightful hour, while we were taking a cup of tea, quietly seated in the tent of our boat, we ordered the sailors to haul over to the right bank of the Nile, with the view of passing the next day among the ruins of Karnak. We had no idea of leaving the boat till the next morning; indeed, the exciting scenes of the day seemed to render rest indispensable. But the effects of the vivifying plant of China, and the splendour of that glorious night, brought over us a magic change. We felt like new creatures; the spring-floods of life rushed through our worn frames, and reanimated them, for the moment, with the smiles, hopes, and buoyancy of youth. Coats, canes, and arms were mounted, and we were cheerily traversing the plain for a moonlight view of the ruins of Karnak!

Although we had more than a mile to go, we soon stood in the great court of the temple. In the soft light of the moon, the fallen fabric of our contempla-

tion assumed a grandeur and sublimity that we had been strangers to in our previous visits. In the centre of the court, a lonely column, expanding its ample capital like a canopy over our heads, rose in all the majesty, entireness, and perfection of its pristine elegance. How changed, beautified, and enlarged seemed the whole massive pile ! Order rose from chaotic ruin ; what had before seemed like a crushed, crumbled, and confused world, now assumed the perfection of art and regularity. Imagination could almost bring up the fallen roof, raise the broken wall and prostrate pillars, add lustre to the tarnished gilding, restore the bruised sculpture, re-open the imposing aisles, and breathe fresh existence into the brilliant groups that once bowed in pompous worship at the feet of Pharaoh's god ;—and the music of their golden harps seemed ready to burst voluptuously upon the stillness of the night ! But the gorgeous ceremonial has long since passed away. The crafty priest with his gilded robe and pompous offering is veiled in darkness, and the record of his name is obliterated.

We ascended the great propylon, whence we were enabled to comprehend the gigantic plan of the ruin with much satisfaction. The great gateways, rising in the distance north, south, east, and west, opened their lofty portals with augmented interest and magnificence. The vast western court was encumbered with the spoils of art ; the incomparable columns of the grand hall, the sublime obelisks, the bruised statues, the ruined sanctuary, the half-broken colonnades, the crumbled walls, shaded here and there by grace-

ful palms,—all combined a most exciting and interesting scene!

Descending from this position, we walked to a ruin strewn a little to the south, which was beautified with a profusion of statuary; among which we discovered two large sphinxes, with female heads. They had been cruelly broken; yet there was a calm placidity and graceful sweetness about their features that I had never before seen impressed upon inanimate objects. They seemed like wronged and injured creatures of real life, patiently and silently suffering a thousand abuses, yet meekly enduring all with a purity of sentiment and resignation belonging to happier realms.

As we turned pensively from these objects, and directed our steps toward the Nile; we passed through a cluster of huts, standing like a loathsome blotch on the skirts of the noble ruins.

A silent group of aged men, perched upon a heap of rubbish in the street, were smoking. There was a noisy party in one of the hovels, engaged in the dance, keeping time with their feet and distorted bodies. How changed, alas!—

“The world’s great empress on the Egyptian plain,
That spread her conquest o’er a thousand states,
And poured her heroes through a hundred gates!”—

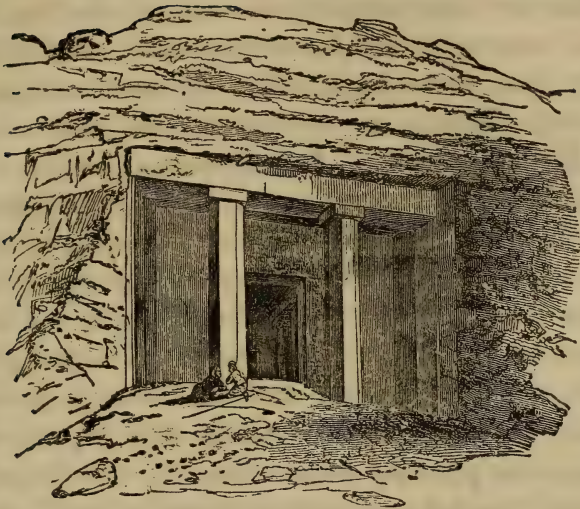
Her miserable, degenerated inhabitants, now dwindled to an insignificant band, trembling at the slightest frown of a foreign vassal, seek a wretched subsistence from the sale of the bones and coffins of their ancestors!

We returned to the boat, and swung into the stream. The sailors raised their deep voices, while the dipping oars kept time to their coarse music; and the next day we were before the temple of Dendera.



DIFFERENT FORMS OF MUMMY-CASES.

1, 2, 4, 9, of wood.—3, 5, 6, 7, 8, of stone.—10, of burnt earthenware.



EXTERIOR VIEW OF A TOMB CUT IN THE ROCK AT BENI HASSAN.

CHAPTER XLIV.

Temple of Dendera. — A Cook in danger of being cooked. — Capture of a Pelican. — Siout, and the “Beautiful, bright-eyed little Arab Girl.” — Mr. Scantletrash and Paul. — His Excellency the Governor. — Ancient Tombs, Modern Cemetery, Fox-hunt, and Death of a Bat. — Ruins of Antinoe. — Tombs of Beni Hassan, and our last Interview with the Rintapers.

THE temple of Dendera stands about three miles from the Nile, on the Libyan side. We approached it through two ancient pylons, standing about half a mile apart. The intervening spaces between the gateways and the temple were strewed with old brick-work, pottery, mud-huts, and other rubbish.

Passing over the broken walls of the modern town, which are constructed of the mud of the Nile, we soon came to the temple, which is surrounded by the filthy dens of the Arabs, which are also built upon its roof. This is the most perfect and entire of all the Egyptian temples. It faces the east, and is about two hundred and twenty-five feet in length and forty-two in width. The portico is supported by twenty-four sculptured columns; it is somewhat higher and wider than the main body of the temple, and was added by Tiberias.* The grand and imposing façade rises forty-five feet above the base of the columns. A large globe with wings and serpents surmounts the principal entrance, and the whole temple is deeply loaded with sculptured and painted embellishments. The grand hall is fifty-one feet by forty-two, and supported by Isis-headed columns, fifteen feet in circumference. The second room is forty-two feet by eighteen, and the two which succeed it are each of nearly the same dimensions; all dark, and choked up with the filth of the Arabs. The walls, roof, columns, and nearly all other parts of this temple are well preserved; though its sculptures are cruelly defaced, and the whole is neglected and left to the ravages of time, travellers, and "scientific research."

Near by are the remains of another small temple; and in various directions we saw other vestiges of the ancient city, whose inhabitants were celebrated for their hatred of the crocodile, and their daring and

* Wilkinson's Thebes, 403.

successful manner of attacking him. The modern village is deserted; not a soul was visible; and the surrounding plains wore a neglected aspect.

Again resuming our downward course, we swept prosperously on with the wind and current until the next morning, when a gale springing up from the north, subjected our little vessel to some of those disagreeable lurchings, pitchings, rollings, and tumblings which distinguish an autumnal trip in a long, shallow-bottomed steamer round Point Judith. Mrs. C. was sick, the doctor upset his ink, and a disaster occurred which came near cooking the cook. One of Johnny's furnaces capsized with a boiling tea-kettle; and, although the poor fellow escaped without much injury, the steam and ashes which ascended veiled him from sight, and resembled the blowing up of a steamer. Affairs seemed to have approached a crisis; and, fearful of more serious consequences, we ran the boat ashore and staked it to the bank. The wind continuing unfavourable for the two following days, our progress was greatly retarded. While we were struggling with the unpropitious blast, we saw a fine craft pressing gallantly up the Nile, with the flag of our own country. It was no sooner discovered that we too were protected by the stars and stripes, than the wind was shaken out of the sails of the ascending boat, and she was run against the bank. We were alongside with all practicable haste, and received a cordial greeting from the learned and estimable Dr. M—, of New York. We made the voyage from Trieste to Athens with Dr. M—, and left him amid

the classical remains of Greece ; and were now most happy to meet him upon the banks of the Nile. After an agreeable chat for some time, we separated with mutual good wishes and a round of musketry. Our friend filled his sail, and swept off pleasantly before the gale, while we were doomed to the further annoyance of head winds.

The only event of any importance the next day, was the capture of a pelican, which Mr. J., after several shots, brought within the grasp of one of the sailors, who, supposing the huge bird dead, caught hold of it by one wing, and received for his civility a most uncomfortable nip from its bill, which made the poor Egyptian cry *pecavi*.

Upon the summit of the mountains, on the Arabian side, we picked up some fine crystallizations, and several well-preserved petrified *marine shells*. The wind disappeared with the sun ; and the next day, while Johnny's pans and pots were odoriferously fuming with the garlic and flesh of Egypt, we ran the boat up in front of Siout. Deeming it a bad plan to visit graveyards and tombs with an empty stomach, we deferred our excursion to the grottoes till after dinner. That important meal being despatched, we were soon upon the causeway that conducts from the river to the city of Siout, which is situated in the midst of the most fertile plain in Upper Egypt.

We had not rode far, when we met what I mistook for a lad of about fourteen, dressed in a short blue frock, sitting with folded arms upon a donkey, which was tripping along unguided by its rider, whose legs

were dangling down its sides. I noticed something rather agreeable in the expression of this little muleteer ; but I thought no more of the matter until I heard one of our party say — “ There goes Stephens’s donkey-girl.”

“ Where ?” said I.

“ There she is,” said he, pointing to the muleteer who had just passed me.

This gentleman had been in Siout before, and knew her to be the “ beautiful, bright-eyed little Arab girl” mentioned by Mr. Stephens in his visit to this place. Recollecting the story, and the favourable impression she made upon my worthy countryman, I felt a curiosity to see her again, and in a few moments I had the pleasure ; for, giving her donkey in charge of another, she came dancing and laughing along to Mrs. C., caught the stick from the driver’s hand, and insisted upon attending her, to the no small chagrin of the fellow whom she displaced.

She was lively and talkative, and desirous to render us all the assistance in her power. Her eyes were really very beautiful, and her slender frame was gracefully turned ; still I was not able to discover that excessive charm so much admired by Mr. S. Fortunately, “ Paul” was at hand, and saved his master and friend’s judgment from the slightest imputation touching the no trifling item of female beauty.

“ You must recollect,” said Paul, “ it is now five years since Mr. Stephens saw her ; and five years frequently makes great ravages in the fair visage of beauty. She was quite pretty five years ago ; but she has

grown very ugly since. Now, she is like a boy ; but when Mr. Stephens saw her, she was quite another thing."

Paul called her to his side as he rode along, and she rested her hand upon the back of his saddle, attentively listening to all he said. He told her that Mr. Stephens had written a book, which had circulated in all parts of the world ; and that Mr. S. had greatly praised her beauty and pretty manners. Upon hearing this unexpected intelligence, she looked Paul anxiously in the face, and asked him if it was really true. Paul assured her of the authenticity of all he had said, and added, that his name too was mentioned in the book ; but not always in the enviable terms in which she had been spoken of. Upon this further assurance of the truth of Paul's story, she drooped her head, kissed her hand fervently several times, and smiled. Her teeth were regular, and white as ivory.

Scantletrash now joined us, handed his gun to Paul, and wanted to know " why the devil he did not get that girl to drive his donkey ?"

Paul replied— "*Ce n'est pas possible, Monsieur ;*" and, seeing a turtle dove sitting upon a stone by the way, he drew up and gave the poor bird a charge of buckshot. The feathers flew, and so did the bird ; but Paul thought he had committed murder nevertheless. It was not until he had taken up the feathers one by one, and examined every nook and corner for some paces round, that he could be convinced that the bird he saw flitting so merrily away was indeed that from whose tail he had knocked out a few

feathers ! Then shaking his head with a mysterious air, he said : " I can't make it out ; I'm sure I killed the bird ! "

Scantletrash, who had advanced a little way ahead, bawled out — " Why the devil don't you come along, Paul, and not stand there all day, shaking the tail-feathers of a pigeon ! "

" I'm sure I killed it," said Paul.

" Devil the bit of it," said Mr. Scantletrash ; " you'd not have hit had it been within a yard of the muzzle. Hand the piece here, and I'll give her a new charge." Paul handed the gun to Mr. Scantletrash, gave a significant grunt, and rode on.

Just before passing the stone bridge at the entrance of the city, we unexpectedly found ourselves in the august presence of the governor of Siout. His Excellency was holding a dismal-looking levee under a sycamore which stood before his door. Some fine Arabian horses, attended by armed grooms, standing a little way from the governor's circle, appeared more desirable than any thing I saw about the gubernatorial mansion.

Siout is better built than any town above Cairo, and contains twenty-one thousand inhabitants. We made the tour of the bazars, traversed the principal streets, and rode up to the tombs in the mountains, looking out upon a delightful view.

The principal grottoes are ample and lofty, and some of them are elaborately adorned with painting and sculpture. They have, however, all gone to decay. In exploring one of them, we were assailed in

the face by bats. Scantletrash at the same time discharged his gun, which caused them to rush out in thousands. Some of them were wounded, and one or two killed, and the report reverberated through the gloomy cavern with deafening echoes.

Paul caught up one of the wounded quadrupeds, and carried it to the light for examination. He counted the shot-holes in its wings, and lavished his sympathy and condolence upon the unclean bat in the tenderest manner. While he was caressing it, it caught the honest dragoman's thumb between its teeth, and gave it a close, though bitter embrace. Paul's soothing tones were now changed into a strain of violent anathemas. He abused the bat like a Turk, called it an ungrateful wretch, and wound up by putting the poor creature to death.

While Paul was thus making much ado about his thumb, a fox came leaping from rock to rock down the mountain, and Scantletrash, "passionately fond of the chase," dashed after it at the top of his speed. He called out loud enough to split his throat for Paul to follow. Paul set out; but ere he had proceeded ten rods, the fox entered a tomb; and Scantletrash, tripping against a stone, tumbled over a precipice, and came near breaking his neck! He soon reappeared, with a battered shin, a bruised face, and a broken gun-stock,—and poured forth a shower of abuse upon his faithful dragoman, more bitter than that fluent linguist had heaped upon the unfortunate bat. It was an exciting interview; and, long ere the discussion was over, we descended the declivity of

the mountain and entered the cemetery,—which, without exception, is the most respectable modern burying-ground that we saw in all the Turkish dominions.

Having satisfied our curiosity, we resumed our boat, and the next morning we were at Shekh Abâ-deh. We landed for a slight inspection of the ruins of Antinoë, which are strewed along the eastern bank of the Nile. They present little except a few broken columns and a pulverized mass of bricks and old pottery. We purchased a few antique coins of the natives, and then passed down to the tombs of Beni Hassan.

These grottoes are in the mountains, about a mile and a half from the river. Though far less magnificent than the “Tombs of the Kings,” they are nevertheless interesting, and throw much light upon the state of Egyptian society at an early period. They were excavated during the reign of Osirtasen I.,* who reigned 1740 B. C.;† and show by their chasteness of style, that the beauties of architectural effect were then understood and appreciated.

Wilkinson says that “the fluted columns of Beni Hassan are of a character calling to mind the purity of the Doric, which indeed seems to have derived its origin from Egypt.”‡

Osirtasen I. is supposed to have been a contemporary with Joseph. Were that the fact, he was probably the Pharaoh who “took off his ring from his hand,

* Wilkinson's *Thebes*, 375. † Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, i. 42.

‡ *Ibid.* 44.

and put it upon Joseph's hand ; arrayed him in vestures of fine linen ; put a gold chain about his neck, and made him ruler over all the land of Egypt."*

There is a group of strangers in one of the tombs, supposed by some to represent the arrival of Joseph's brethren in Egypt. The Israelitish cast of countenance which characterizes the group, strengthened this conjecture.

That the Egyptians had attained a high degree of refinement at this period, is evident from the jewels and fine linen with which Pharaoh arrayed Joseph. The various scenes of manufactures, arts, and agriculture, exhibited upon the walls of these tombs, however, bear still more satisfactory testimony to the development of civilization. Here are representations of glass-blowers, manufacturers of linen, goldsmiths, potters, painters, sculptors, and other artisans. Various implements of husbandry, the mode of irrigation, the chase, fishing and fowling scenes, are also vividly depicted. Among their amusements, may be mentioned the games of chess, ball, wrestling, and feats of agility, performed by both men and women. On one side, a physician is represented in the exercise of the mysteries of his art—apparently letting blood. The bastinado is not overlooked ; and both men and women are made impressively to believe in its efficacy. It were useless to attempt a description of all the varied delineations upon the walls of these catacombs. They are well worth a visit ; and, if possible, should be seen by the traveller before examining the more splendid tombs of Thebes.

* Gen. xii. 42. 43.

Putting our boat before the breeze, we descended to Minieh by ten o'clock the same evening. The moon was high and full; not a cloud flitted across the heavens. As we swept rapidly past the town, a long-sided craft lay against the bank, with a flag flapping loosely down the mast, by which we knew it belonged to the Franks. There were lights on board, and several men rushed out and ran down the bank, hallooing—"Stop! stop! stop!" Not knowing the meaning of this hue-and-cry, and imagining there might be some one in distress, we came to as soon as possible, and were surprised to meet the janizary of Sir Danbury Rimtaper. On being informed that Sir Danbury and his three maiden sisters were in the boat we had just passed, and desired to see us, we walked back to meet them.

It will be recollected, that, about the time of our departure from Cairo, we encountered Sir Danbury at Bulak in quest of a boat. He had then been one month engaged in an unsuccessful pursuit of the same object. They were finally obliged to wait for a new boat to be built; and, after a further delay of twenty-five days, it had been completed. It was an immense thing, and stuffed as full of men as the piratical cutter of Captain Kid. The river was getting so low that they could scarcely float it; they were continually aground, and encountering other difficulties, which seemed to preclude the possibility of their reaching Thebes unaided by the blessing of the next inundation. As room, however, seemed to be an important desideratum, they had succeeded in that respect

to their hearts' content, for each had an apartment as large as an English tap-room. Sir Danbury's was quite at the stern of the boat. He was down with a complication of diseases, embracing, among the most prominent, gout, ophthalmia, and lumbago. As we stepped on board, he was reciting an emphatic string of curses in a sepulchral tone, which echoed through the boat like the voice of an angry man at the bottom of a well. The apartments of the Misses Rimtaper succeeded to those of Sir Danbury, with a dining and receiving room built out in front of the cabin, in which the dragoman and janizary, loaded with arms, took up their posts as an advanced guard.

There was great animation on board; all hands were in a bustle; and the whole resembled a privateer just ready for sea. We met, however, a very cordial reception from the ladies, who had a thousand inquiries to make, and a great variety of interesting matter to relate about themselves, which was "exceedingly odd" and very amusing.

They were not a little anxious about the power which they had delegated to their janizary, into whose hands they had resigned the rais and crew, and he was flogging some of the men every hour in the day. Thus far, however, the janizary had hardly come up to their ideas of discipline; but they foresaw that "he might exercise his authority in a *cruel* manner." They were in as much of a quandary to know how they were to restrain the too lavish exercise of power by this functionary, as were the considerate friends of the United States Bank. All

were agreed that, with the government deposits, and "Old Nick" at its head, the "monster" had the ability and the *will* to keep a stiff check upon the over-banking propensities of all kindred institutions; but they were not so clear with regard to the conduct of that gigantic machine "should it *happen to drop under the control of bad men.*"

Thus it was with the Rimtapers. So long, however, as the janizary confined himself to the use of the bastinado, they little regarded the consequences; it was quite congenial with their sense of propriety. "But, should the fellow take a fancy to resort to extremities — what are we to do then?" said they to me.

Never having had much experience with these armed, silver-headed cane gentry, I could throw no light whatever upon the perplexing obscurity which hung over the solution of their inquiry. Just at this moment, I descried the sombre visage of the janizary, darkening a side door opening into the saloon. He was a tall, gaunt figure, in full costume, with pistols in his belt, a sabre at his side, and a face like that of a hangman. He was in the act of emerging from the pantry with some refreshments which one of the Misses Rimtaper had hospitably provided for our entertainment, — comprising some dried dates, a loaf of cake, and a cold fowl. These, together with two tall bottles of some kind of liquid, and a profusion of wine-glasses, tumblers, water-jugs, knives and forks, were arranged upon a circular wooden tray; which, like the family picture of the Vicar of Wakefield, was too large to be admitted through the door with-

out destroying its horizontal position, so essential to the just equilibrium of the bottles, jugs, and glasses. The janizary, cane in hand, grasped the expansive machine, and vainly endeavoured to press it into the saloon. He turned and twisted it, until the glasses rattled, the bottles tumbled,—and, to save the whole from sliding off, he let go the tray with one hand, made a convulsive thrust, got the sabre between his legs, and pitched headlong into the saloon, amid broken bottles, smashed tumblers, and the total wreck of the whole contents of the tray. The ladies screamed, and Sir Danbury came muttering along with his night-cap on, thrust his head through the door, and vehemently exclaimed—“I’ll be demmed if this is not the most extraordinary *spectarkal* I ever witnessed, ’pon honour!” I was of the same opinion.

We apologized for abbreviating the pleasures of a more prolonged interview, bade our amiable friends adieu, and in three days thereafter we were in Cairo, engaging Arabs, camels, and tents, preparatory to our tracing the footsteps of the Israelites through the desert to Mount Sinai, Petra, and the Holy Land.

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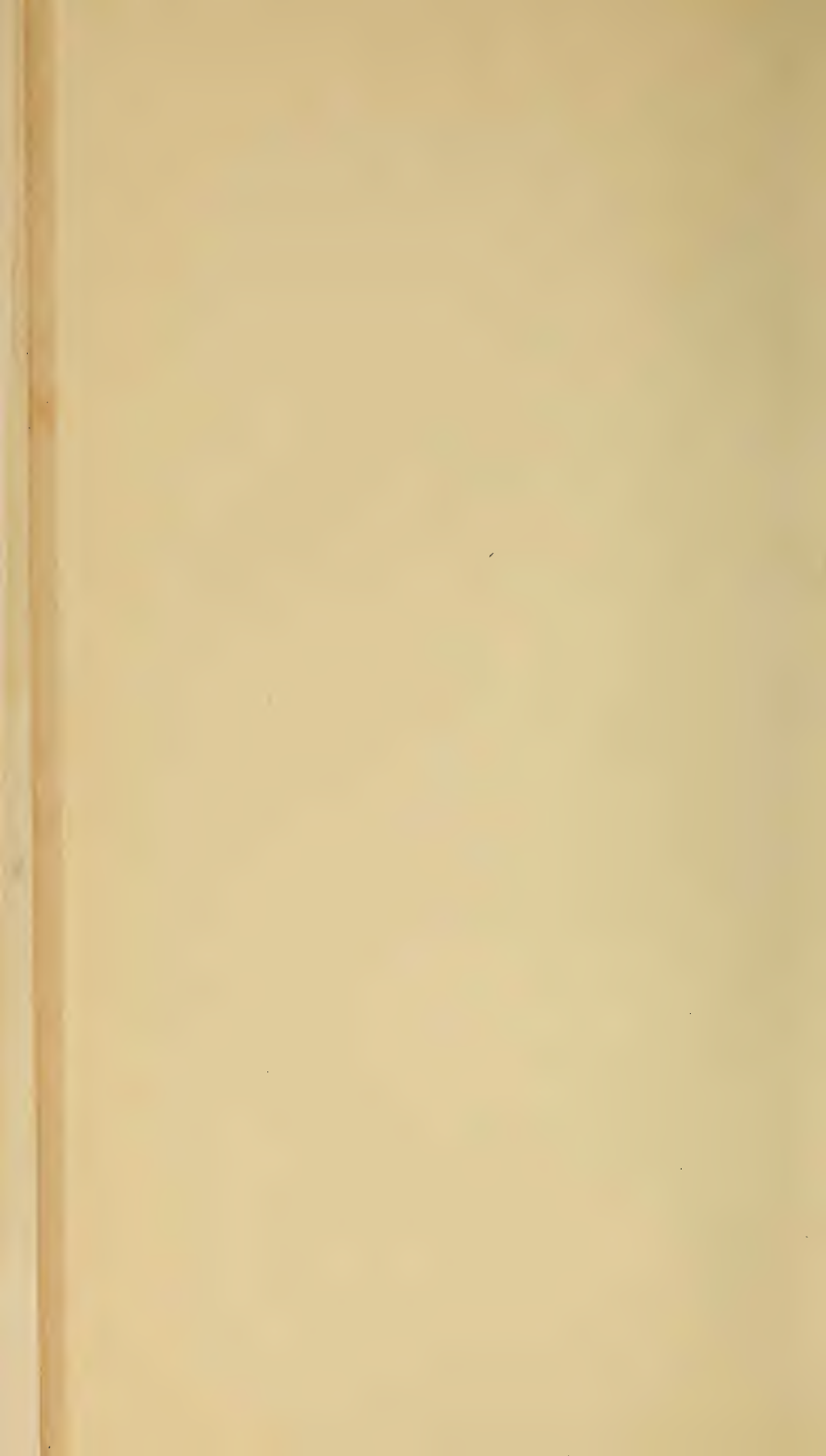
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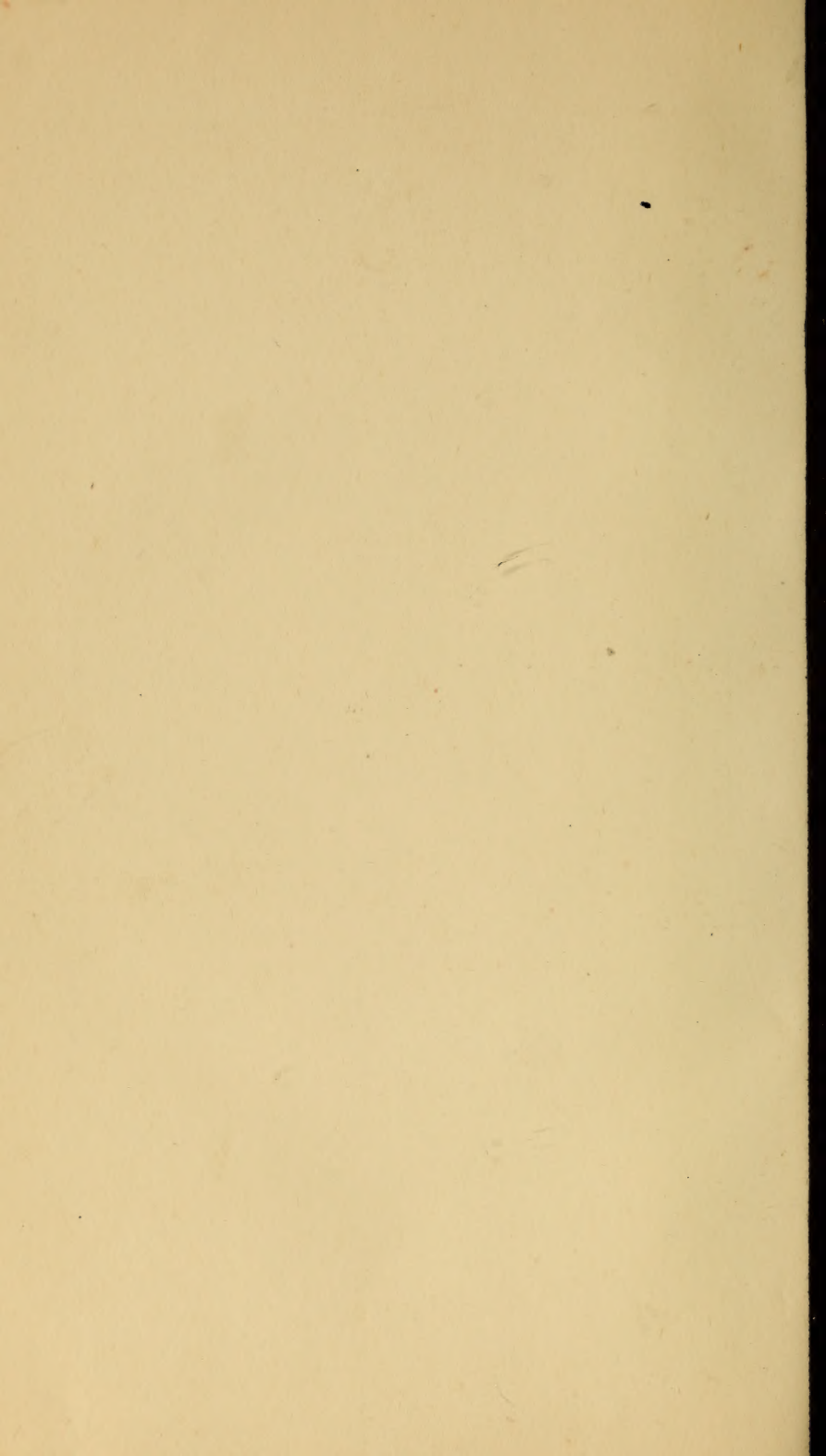
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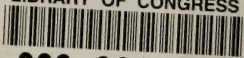








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